PLANT FACT SHEET

Stephania japonica (Thunb.) Miers

GENUS *Stephania* **FAMILY** Menispermaceae

COMMON NAMES Tape vine, Snake vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seed

The fruit is wrapped in leaves and cooked then eaten.
The leaves are squeezed to form a king of jelly.
CAUTION: The tuberous root is poisonous due to picrotoxin.
The tuber is reported as being cooked and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A rather stout climber. The leaves are simple and the leaf stalk joins the blade away from the edge. Leaves are 4-18 cm long by 4-14 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 3-12 cm long. Plants are separately male and female. There are a group of flowers in the axils of leaves. The flowers have 2-4 petals. They are green, white or yellow. The fruit are fleshy and yellow, orange or red. They are 4-8 mm long and wide. There is one brown seed. It is 3-6 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and vine thickets. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 1040 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

The roots are used in medicine.

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