PLANT FACT SHEET

Stachyphrynium placentarium (Lour.) Clausager & Borchs.

GENUS *Stachyphrynium* **FAMILY** Marantaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild maranta

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - flavour, bud, Rhizome

The leaves are used to wrap food to give it flavour. (The leaves are not eaten).
The flower buds are used to make vinegar.
The rhizome is boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows 0.5-1 m tall. There are 1 or 2 leaves near the base. The leaf sheath is 3-50 cm long. There is one leaf on the stem. This leaf sheath is 3-5 cm long. The leaf stalk is 7.5-60 cm long. The leaf blade is oval and 25-55 cm long by 8-20 cm wide. They are thinly leathery. The base is rounded and it tapers to the tip. The flower arrangement does not has a stalk. It is made up of 4 or 5 or more small spikes. These are round and 308 cm across. There are 2 flowers per bract. They are white or yellowish. The fruit is oblong and about 1.2 cm across. It has a thin covering. There is 1 seed and it is oval and 1 cm across. It is surrounded by a red seed coat.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in wet, shady places. In China it is in forests and along valleys from sea level to 1500 m altitude in S China.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 20 Phrynium species. They grow in tropical Asia.

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