PLANT FACT SHEET

Cryptostylis subulata (Labill.) Richb.f.,

GENUS *Cryptostylis* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Large tongue orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root

DESCRIPTION

An robust orchid. It has thick fleshy roots. The leaves are held erect and are leathery. They are up to 15 cm long by 3 cm wide. They are yellowish-green. The flower stalk is 80 cm long and has 3-20 flowers. Each flower is about 2.5 cm long. The flowers are green with brownish or reddish tinges. The tongue (labellum) is folded and reddish-purple.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It usually grows in swamps and near the edges of streams. It grow in moist positions in open forests. It needs a protected shaded position. It is damaged by frost and drought.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from corms. A mixture of coarse sand and leaf litter from the original location is best. Plants do not respond well to root disturbance. Plants are pollinated by native wasps.

NOTES

There are about 20 Cryptostylis species from Malaysia to Australia and the Pacific.
It is a protected species.

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