PLANT FACT SHEET

Smilax glabra Roxb.

GENUS *Smilax* **FAMILY** Smilacaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root - drink, Shoots, Tubers

The root is used as a substitute for coffee.
The young shoots are fried.
The fresh fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing vine. It does not have prickles. The stem is branched. It is 1-4 m long and woody. The leaf stalk is 5-15 cm long and narrowly winged. There are tendrils. The leaf blade is oval or sword shaped and 6-15 cm long by 1-7 cm wide. The flowering stalk has 10-30 or more flowers. They are greenish white. The fruit is a round, blue-black berry. It is 6-10 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on thinly forested slopes along valleys. In China it occurs between 300-1800 m altitude in many provinces. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In NE Thailand fruit are available March to May.

NOTES

There are about 300 Smilax species. The tuber like roots are used in medicine.

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