PLANT FACT SHEET

Afrohybanthus enneaspermus (L.) Flicker

GENUS *Afrohybanthus* **FAMILY** Violaceae

COMMON NAMES Spade flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Plant, Leaves

The whole plant is eaten fresh or mixed into a paste with milk. It is used to add sour flavour to meat and fish.

DESCRIPTION

An erect herb or bush. It grows 45-60 cm high. It keeps growing from year to year. It varies a lot. The stems have ribs along them and also hairs. The leaf blades are 206 cm long by 3-9 mm wide. The edges of the leaves are rolled inwards. The flowers have 2 small petals that are cream or green and 2 larger petals that are cream with orange tips and one larger petal that is spoon shaped and orange. The fruit is a capsule. The seeds have ridges along them.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in coastal savannah, grassland and roadsides up to 1,200 m altitude in West Africa. In north Australia it grows from sea level to 1,270 m above sea level.

NOTES

It has medicinal uses.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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