PLANT FACT SHEET

Cissus discolor Blume

GENUS *Cissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Begonia Treevine, Mottled cissus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The leaves are eaten raw. They are also added to dishes to give a sour flavour. The leaves are used for pickles. The ripe red berries are eaten. They are pungent.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen vine. It climbs to 3 m high and spreads to 3 m across. The stems are creeping or climbing. They are often red. They have tendrils which attach to objects. The leaves are bright metallic green. The leaves are oval or sword shaped. They are marked with white and purple on the upper surface and are deep red underneath. There are saw like teeth along the edge. The flowers are small and occur in small clusters. The flowers are green with a red tint. The flower clusters are 5 cm long and hang down. The fruit are oval berries which are dark red in colour. They are 8 mm across. They have one seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It prefers light to medium, humus rich soil. The soil should be well drained and moist. It suits a shaded and protected position. It is drought and frost tender. Plants need a temperature above 5°C. In Indonesia it grows from sea level to 1,200 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India, plants flower and fruit August to November.

NOTES

There are about 200-350 Cissus species. There are about 75 species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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

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