PLANT FACT SHEET

Alpinia japonica (Thunb.) Miquel

GENUS *Alpinia* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Shan jiang, Peppermint stick ginger

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A ginger family herb. The false stem is 35-70 cm high. The leaf stalk is about 2 cm long. The leaf blade is sword shaped and 25-40 cm long by 4-7 cm wide. It is hairy especially underneath. It tapers to the tip. The flower racemes are 15-30 cm long. The flowers are usually paired along this stalk. The flowers are white with red marks. The fruit is a capsule which is red and round. It is 1-1.5 cm across. It is hairy. The seeds are 5 mm by 3 mm and with many angles.

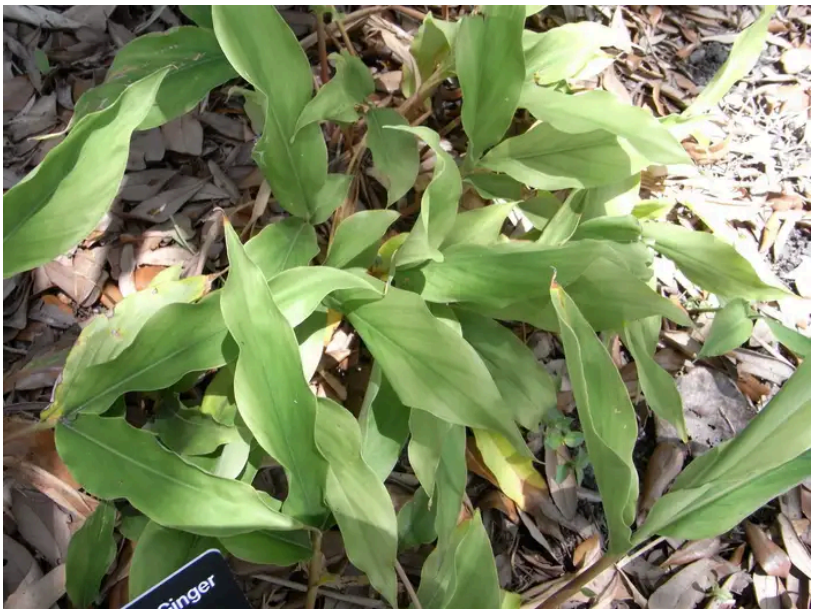
HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests in S China. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

It is used in medicine. There are about 200-230 Alpinia species. They are mostly tropical and subtropical.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f79dbc84-697c-42fb-a9fb-9daaf2960a52