PLANT FACT SHEET

Crotalaria ochroleuca G. Don

GENUS *Crotalaria* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Flowers

The leaves are cooked and eaten. The leaves are often dried. They are also chopped and boiled and eaten with other foods.
Caution: Drying often is used to get rid of a poison.
People become drowsy if they eat the flowers. Dried flowers are used for flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

An erect annual, or short lived perennial. It grows 0.5-2.7 m tall. There are fine hairs on the stems. The leaves have 3 leaflets. These are narrow and 5-13 cm long by 0.5-3 cm wide. They are slightly hairy underneath. The flower clusters are 10-50 cm long, with many flowers which are 2 cm long. They are yellow with red streaks. The wings of the flowers have a purple mark at the base. The fruit is like a cylinder and is 5-7 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Papua New Guinea is grows from 30 m to 1,800 m altitude. It is mostly on plantations. In Zambia it grows in savannah. In southern China it grows in shady places with thin soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young leaves are picked off the plant.

NOTES

There are about 550 Crotalaria species. They are mostly tropical.

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