



PLANT FACT SHEET

Merremia umbellata subsp. orientalis (L.) H. Hallier

GENUS *Merremia* FAMILY Convolvulaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Tubers

The young leaves are mixed with vegetables and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A climber with trailing or twining stems. It grows 1-5 m tall. The stem twists as it winds around objects. It has milky sap. The young growth has soft hairs. The leaves are 8-12 cm long by 4-6 cm wide. They are oval or sword shaped. The leaves are thin textured and stiff. They are dull green and hairy. The leaf stalk is 5 cm long. The flowers are 2-2.5 cm across and white but sometimes with a yellow centre. They are funnel shaped. They occur in the axils of leaves and are in groups of 1-11 flowers. The fruit is a capsule 0.8 cm across. It is oval and pointed. It opens in 4 valves. The seeds are black and with long grey hairs.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It grows along roadsides, in forested valleys, and in thickets from 0-1600 m. in China. It needs a sunny position and well drained soil. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 80 *Merremia* species.

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