PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Kaempferia rotunda* L.

**GENUS** *Kaempferia* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Jelly bean Ginger, Round-rooted galangal

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** leaves - condiment, Roots, Tubers, Spice

The young leaves and root tubers are used to flavour food.

## DESCRIPTION

A herb. It has rhizomes with tubers. There are 2-4 leaves. They are erect. The leaf stalk is 1-2 cm long. It has a channel. The leaf blade usually has a pattern of dark and light green. Underneath it is tinged with purple. The leaf blade is oblong to sword shaped and 17-27 cm long by 7.6-9.5 cm wide. The base is wedge shaped. The flowering groups are on separate shoots arising from the rhizome. They appear before the false stem. There are 4-6 flowers. The bracts are purple brown.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow in seasonally moist and humid or dry climates. It needs fertile, organically-rich, well-drained soil. It needs an alkaline pH. It grows in open grassland and is also cultivated in S China. It grows up to 750 m above sea level. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seed germinate readily and plants need to be kept moist shaded and warm. The rhizomes can be divided and sections planted. They are spaced 50-60 cm apart.

## NOTES

There are about 50 Kaempferia species. It is used in medicine.

## PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

## REFERENCES


Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 307

Bremness, L., 1994, Herbs. Collins Eyewitness Handbooks. Harper Collins. p 180

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 577

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1297

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 247

Khumgratok, S., Edible Plants in Cultural Forests of Northeastern Thailand. Mahasarakham University Thailand.

Larsen, K., Ibrahim, H., Khaw, S.H., & Saw, L.G., 1999, Gingers of Peninsula Malaysia and Singapore. Natural History Publications (Borneo). p 51

Lembaga Biologi Nasional, 1977, Ubi-Ubian, Balai Pustaka, Jakarta. p 50

Lim, T. K., 2015, Edible Medicinal and Non Medicinal Plants. Volume 9, Modified Stems, Roots, Bulbs. Springer p 50

Lim, T. K., 2016, Edible Medicinal and Non-Medicinal Plants: Volume 12 Modified Stems, Roots p 7

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 368

Marinelli, J. (Ed), 2004, Plant. DK. p 244

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 99, 225

Morton,

Ochse, J. J. et al, 1931, Vegetables of the Dutch East Indies. Asher reprint. p 752

PROSEA handbook Volume 13 Spices. p 277

Purseglove, J.W., 1972, Tropical Crops. Monocotyledons. Longmans p 521

Ragsasilp, A., et al, 2022, Ethnobotany of Zingiberaceae for the Phu Thai Ethnic Group in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand. Engineering access Vol. 8, No. 2 July-December 2022

Seidemann J., 2005, World Spice Plants. Economic Usage, Botany, Taxonomy. Springer. p 192

Sp. pl. 1:3. 1753

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 770

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 1120

Terra, G.J.A., 1973, Tropical Vegetables. Communication 54e Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, p 54

Thitiprasert, W., et al, 2007, Country report on the State of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Thailand (1997-2004). FAO p 95

Uphof,

Woodward, P., 2000, Asian Herbs and Vegetables. Hyland House. p 83

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Wu Delin, Larsen, K., Zingiberaceae. Flora of China.

Zeven, A. C. & de West, J. M. J., 1982, Dictionary of cultivated plants and their regions of diversity. Wageningen. p 64

**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

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

**LICENCE** CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/fcf79224-82d3-4091-b994-06feed36e2ee