PLANT FACT SHEET

Globba marantina L.

GENUS *Globba* **FAMILY** Zingiberaceae

COMMON NAMES Yellow dancing girl ginger

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: root, Bulb, Rhizome

The slightly spicy bulbils are eaten fresh or dried as a seasoning. It can be used like cardamoms.

DESCRIPTION

A ginger family herb. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 50 cm tall. It has tuberous roots. It has leafy shoots with 8-15 leaves. The leafy growth or ligule is 2 mm long and is fringed with hairs. The leaf stalk of the upper leaves is distinct and is 5 mm long. The leaf blade is sword shaped and 15 cm long by 4-5 cm wide. It has short hairs underneath. The flowers are compact and 1-4 cm long. The flower stalk is 1-3 cm long. There are 8-15 sterile bracts. They overlap. The lower ones are large and are 1.5-2.5 cm long by 2 cm wide. The upper ones are smaller. Each one usually carries a small bulb. These are narrowly oval or cone shaped and 1 cm long. The flowers are yellow.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry forested areas. It also grows on sand banks. It can grow in sago plantations.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from the bulbils. When the plant dies back, these bulbils become dormant for 5 months then they germinate.

NOTES

There are about 50-70 Globba species. In Slovenia probably in a hot house.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/fd5cf84a-5e56-45eb-9432-a3eb908f28fb