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Psophocarpus palustris

[Synonyms : *Botor palustris*, *Psophocarpus comorensis*, *Psophocarpus longepedunculatus*,
Psophocarpus mabala, *Psophocarpus palmettorum*]

RED WINGED BEAN is a climbing perennial. Native to tropical Africa (especially Senegal) it has pea-like flowers.

It is also known as African winged bean, *Jaat monyet* (Sundanese), *Psophocarpus*, and *Si leng dou* (Chinese).

The four-winged fruit pods turn blackish when dry.

Palustris is derived from Latin *palus* (bog, marsh) meaning ‘of or from bogs, swamps or marshes’.

This bean is cultivated locally, particularly in western Africa, for the underground stems and young fruit pods that are eaten as vegetables.

Authorities on south-eastern Asia believe the region primarily appreciates it as a shade or cover plant and a source of green manure, then as a root vegetable or provider of beans.