PLANT FACT SHEET

Irvingia smithii Hook.f.

GENUS *Irvingia* **FAMILY** Irvingiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Fruit, seeds

The nuts or seeds are eaten fresh or with other foods.
The pulp of the fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows to 20 m high. The crown is wide spreading. The leaves are oval and rounded at the base and taper to the tip. The leaves are 6-10 cm long by 3.5-4 cm wide. They are more pale green underneath. The flowers are small and white. They are in spikes 10-15 cm long. They are at the ends of branches. They have a scent. The fruit are 3-4 cm long and 2.5-3 cm wide. They are green but turn dark red as they ripen. They contain a hard stone with one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It usually grows along river banks and seasonally flooded forests.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed. Fruit float and are spread by rivers. The young germinating plants can be under water.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees can take about 10 years until flowering.

NOTES

Also put in the family Picramniaceae. There are 41 Picramnia species. They are usually in rainforest. They are tropical. These were previously in the family Simaroubaceae.

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