PLANT FACT SHEET

Opilia amentacea Roxb.

GENUS *Opilia* **FAMILY** Opiliaceae

COMMON NAMES Catkin blooming, Fragrant opilia, Yellow plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Vegetable

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.
CAUTION. The fruit eaten in large quantities can irritate the lips and tongue.
Leaves are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or woody climber. It grows off other trees and plants. It grows to 4-10 m tall and has stems 20 cm across. The bark is rough and light grey. It has furrows along it and is corky. The aerial branches often hang downwards. The leaves are fairly smooth and leathery. They are 5-14 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The midrib is prominent underneath the leaf. The leaf has a pointed tip. The leaf stalk is 0.3-0.7 cm long. The new leaves are bright shiny green. The base of the leaves is slightly curved backwards. The flowers are very small and yellow green. They are star shaped. They have a sweet scent. Many flowers occur together on short stalks around a central stem. These occur in the axils of leaves and are 2-3.5 cm long. The fruit can occur singly or in clusters. The fruit are oval and fleshy. The flesh is white. They are 1.5-3 cm long by 1.2-1.8 cm wide. They are pale yellow or orange when ripe. The fruit are edible. They have one seed inside. The seed is 21 mm long by 15 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Asia. They occur near the beach in monsoon areas. They are often on sandy soil. They need fresh water so are often near streams. In China it grows in forests and on mountain slopes between 500-800 m altitude in Yunnan in S China. It can grow in arid places. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from fresh seed. The seed need to be placed on the ground surface, not buried.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia flowering is August to October and fruiting October to January. It fruits in the wet season. In Tanzania leaves are collected from April to November. In southern China from April to June.

NOTES

There are 2 Opilia species. They are tropical.

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