PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus asperifolia Miq.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Sandpaper tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a scrambling shrub. It grows 2-4 m high. It can be a creeper 8 m long. The leaves are in 2 lines on opposite sides of the stems. They are alternate. They are 3-23 cm long by 1-12 cm wide. They are papery and usually have unequal sides. The figs occur as 1-3 together. They are in the axils of leaves. They are 2-3 cm across. They are dark red or orange.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in damp sites and near river banks in West and Central Africa. It grows in evergreen forests and along rivers. It grows from sea level to 1,800 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The pollinating wasp is Kradibia gestroi afrum (Wiebes).

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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