PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus sansibarica Warb.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Large-fruited fig, Knobbly fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a large tree. It grows to 24 m tall. The trunk is light grey and up to 3 m across. It can grow as a strangler from a tree branch and send down aerial roots. The leaves are smooth. They are 3-13 cm long and 3-8 cm wide. They are oblong or slightly narrow with a rounded base. There are 7-8 pairs of veins branching outwards and looping along the leaf edge. The leaves are on long leaf stalks. The fruit occur as one or two fruit high up on the spreading main branches. The fruit are 5 cm across. They have a two lobed opening at the end. They are green when young and turn red when ripe. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in low altitude forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The tree can be grown from seed. The seeds are very fine and are best sown with fine sand. Seeds germinate after 15-30 days. Seedlings and young plants transplant easily.
The wasp pollinator is Courtella armata (Wiebes).

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. It grows about 1 m per year.

NOTES

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

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