PLANT FACT SHEET

Canarium vulgare Leenhouts

GENUS *Canarium* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Pili nut, Java-almond

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The seeds are eaten.
An oily mixture made from the seeds is used as a baby food.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which grows up to 45 m high. It can be 70 cm across the trunk. Buttresses can be 3 m high and 1.5 m wide. The small branches are about 0.5 cm across. (When cut across, this, like most Canariums has separate vascular bundles similar to that found in a root). The leafy structures (stipules) fall off early but are more on the branch than the leaf stalk. They are oblong and 1-5 cm long by 0.5-1.7 cm wide. The edges are not divided. The leaves have 4 or 5 pairs of leaflets and are without hairs. The leaflets are oblong and 5-16 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They can be papery in texture. The base can be broadly wedge shaped. The tip tapers. There are 12-15 pairs of veins which are slightly curved. The flower clusters occur at the ends of branches. Male flower clusters can be 35 cm long with branches 20 cm long. Female flower clusters are 20 cm long with branches 10 cm long. The flowers are hairy and male flowers have almost no stalk while female flower stalks are 6-7 mm long. The fruiting stalks can be 15 cm long with about 12 fruit. The fruit are oval and slightly triangular. They are 3-5 cm long by 1.5-3 cm across. There are 1-3 seeds inside.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It does well on limestone soils.

PRODUCTION

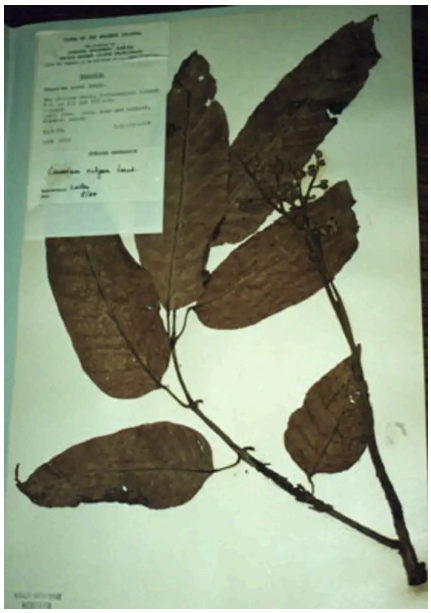
Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

NOTES

This plant is very similar to Canarium indicum but considered separate. The names have often been confused. There are 80-95 Canarium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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