PLANT FACT SHEET

Trilepisium madagascariense DC.

GENUS *Trilepisium* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES False fig, Urn fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves, Nuts, Vegetable

The leaves are used as a vegetable. They are cut then cooked.
The seeds with the skin removed are roasted as a nut and eaten.
The ripe fruit are eaten fresh. They are also roasted.

DESCRIPTION

It is a large tree. It grows to 17-35 m high. The trunk is furrowed. The bark is grey. The leaves are simple and glossy. The leaves are rigid and narrowly oval. They are oblong and 7-14 cm long by 3-6.5 cm wide. They are very dark green and glossy. They are leathery. They taper from a broad base to a rounded tip. The veins form loops. The flowers are separate but in the same receptacle. The flowers are urn shaped being swollen in the middle and narrowing at the top. They are in the axils of the leaves. The receptacle is about 1.5 cm long. It is something like a fig. It has a wide opening at the top. There are many male flowers with stamens sticking out the end of the receptacle. The female flowers are imbedded in the fleshy receptacle. The fruit is a nut. These are embedded in the fleshy receptacle. The whole structure is about 2 cm long. The fruit is fleshy and contains a single seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and highlands. It grows along the edges of rivers and in patches of evergreen forest. It extends into the savannah in West Africa. It grows from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds. Plants can be budded. It can be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from October to December.

NOTES

There is only one variable Trilepisium species.

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