PLANT FACT SHEET

Manilkara discolor (Sond.) J. H. Hemsl.

GENUS *Manilkara* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Red milkwood, Silvery milkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. The seeds are discarded.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 6-18 m tall. It has a straight clean trunk 60 cm across. The bark is rough and light coloured. The young growth often has red hairs. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are crowded near the tips of branches. The leaves are green above and have silvery hairs underneath. Leaves are large and oblong. The base is narrowed. The leaves are 2.5-10 cm long by 1.3-4 cm wide. The midrib is raised below. The leaf stalks are sturdy and red. The flowers are in groups in the axils of the leaves. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are 1.3 cm across. The fruit are round and yellow turning apricot. They have a juicy pulp. The seed is oval, pale and flattened. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows over a wide range of altitudes from sea level to 2000 m in evergreen forest. It grows in lowland forests in well-drained dry sands. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from July to November.

NOTES

There are about 75 Manilkara species.

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