PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus obliqua G. Forster

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Small-leaved fig, Large strangler fig, Polynesian banyan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A strangling fig tree which can grow 15 to 30 m high. It can spread 15-30 m wide. When grown in the open it has a rounded spreading crown. The trunk has buttresses. The bark is grey-brown. The leaves are dark green and dense. They are paler underneath. The leaves are simple and 6-10 cm long by 2-3.5 cm wide. The mature leaves are smooth. The fruit are 6-10 mm across. They occur in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are edible. Some varieties occur.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in subtropical and warm temperate locations. They grow naturally in rainforest in Queensland and New South Wales in Australia. It can grow in conditions of low light. In Samoa it grows from 30-1080 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

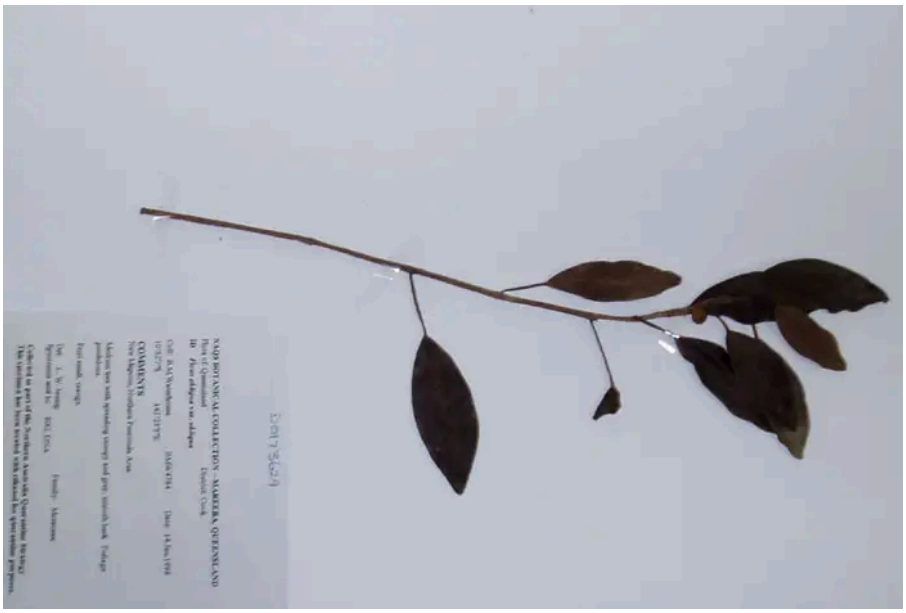
Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or aerial layers. The seed are removed from the fig and mixed with sand before sowing as they are very small. Take the seed from ripe orange-red fruit.

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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