PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus laurifolia hort. ex Lam.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark, Fruit

The inner bark is sweet and is chewed with kola.
The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that is a strangler fig. It starts attached to other plants. It grows 12 m high. It has a straight trunk and broad crown. The branches are stout. There are hanging aerial roots. The bark is rough and has cracks along it. They are narrowly oval to oblong and 10-30 cm long by 6-20 cm wide. The fruit (figs) are in the axils of leaves and occur singly or in pairs. They are oval and 3 cm long. They have cream spots and short hairs.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in damp sites in the dry zone forest in West Africa. It often grows on oil palm. It is often on termite mounts. It suits the seasonally dry tropics. It has been recorded near sea level and at about 2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The wasp pollinator is Courtella hamifera.

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