PLANT FACT SHEET

Avicennia alba Bl.

GENUS *Avicennia* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES White mangrove

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small or medium sized tree. It grows up to 20-25 m in height and has a trunk which is 60 cm across. The bark is dark brown. It can have short cracks along it. The trunk has many branches from low down. The twigs have a white covering at first but then become smooth and shiny. There are many aerial roots. The leaves are simple and produced opposite each other. The leaf blade is long and sword shaped. It has a tip at the end and is wedge shaped near the base. The upper surface of the leaves is pale green while the lower surface is silvery hairy. The side veins are easy to see. The leaves can be 3-16 cm long and 1.5-5 cm wide. (The flowers are in 3 branched arrangements with a flower on each stalk.) There can be 10-30 flowers opposite each other. The flower stalks are 1-3 cm long. The fruit is a greenish-yellow pear shaped capsule. Seeds germinate before the fruit falls. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mangrove regions along the coast in tropical countries in Asia and the Pacific. It demands light, so is often one of the first mangrove species to grow in a new area. It tends to be at the outer edge of mangrove forests. It is often along tidal river banks. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It grows naturally from the many fruit it produces. Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 6-8 Avicennia species. The Avicenniacae contains one genus. They are tropical.
Also put in the family Avicenniaceae.

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