PLANT FACT SHEET

Poisonous

This plant, or parts of it, can be poisonous. Do not eat it unless you know which parts are safe and how they must be prepared.

Food Plants International: CAUTION; Seeds VERY POISONOUS

Cerbera manghas L.

GENUS *Cerbera* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Sea Mango, Grey Milkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

CAUTION: The fruit, and especially the seed, are very poisonous and contain hydrocyanic acid and the cardiac glycosides thevetin and cerberin.
The leaves have been recorded as being eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree up to 8 m tall. It can reach 20 m high. It spreads to 2-5 m across. The stem is erect and branching. It has milky sap. The bark is grey brown. The branches come out in whorls, and they are marked with leaf scars. The leaves are bright green. The leaf stalk is 3-6 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong, and narrowing towards the tip. It is 6-37 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. Leaves are deeply veined and arranged in spirals around the stem. The flowers are white with a yellow throat. They are like tubes and 7.5 cm long by 2.5-5 cm across. They occur in dense clusters at the ends of branches. The flowers have a strong scent. The fruit are round and fleshy berries, which are 7.5 cm across. They are pink, tinged with purple. Often the fruit occur in pairs. They hang down.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows best in rich, moist, well drained soils. It needs a sheltered and partly shaded position. It is drought and frost tender. It is often near swamps, near the sea and on rocky and sandy coasts. It can tolerate exposure near the coast, but is cold sensitive. In XTBG Yunnan. It suits hardiness zones 11-12. In Townsville Anderson BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

The seeds are poisonous. There are 3-4-7 Cerbera species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 117

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 108

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 240

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 240 (As Cerbera lactaria)

Borrell, O.W., 1989, An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 51

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 520

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 520 (As Cerbera lactaria)

Cabalion, P. and Morat, P., 1983, Introduction le vegetation, la flore et aux noms vernaculaires de l'ile de Pentcoste (Vanuatu), In: Journal d'agriculture traditionnelle et de botanique appliquee JATBA Vol. 30, 3-4 (As Cerbera odollam)

Checklist of NT Vascular Plant Species. January 2003.

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 36

Cowie, I, 2006, A Survey of Flora and vegetation of the proposed Jaco-Tutuala-Lore National Park. Timor-Lests (East Timor) www.territorystories.nt/gov.au p 43

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1984, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 3. Lothian. p 12 Lists Cerbera odollam.

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1984, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 3. Lothian. p 12

Engel, D.H., & Phummai, S., 2000, A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia. Timber Press. p 46

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 199

Flora of Australia, Volume 28, Gentiales, Melbourne:CSIRO Australia, 1996. p 142, Fig 59 p 146, Map 182, p 297

Franklin, J., Keppel, G., & Whistler, W., 2008, The vegetation and flora of Lakeba, Nayau and Aiwa Islands, Central Lau Group, Fiji. Micronesica 40(1/2): 169–225, 2008 (Also as Cerbera odollam)

GTZ 1996, A Guide to some Indigenous Fijian Trees. GTZ Suva. p 197

Haslam, S., 2004, Noosa's Native Plants. Noosa Integrated Catchment Assn. Inc. p 20

Henty, E.E., 1980, Harmful Plants in Papua New Guinea. Botany Bulletin No 12. Division Botany, Lae, Papua New Guinea. p 20

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 206

Kebler, P.J.A., et al, 2002, Checklist of Woody Plants of Sulawesi, Indonesia. Blume Supplement 14

Kitalong, A. H., DeMeo, R. A., & Holm, T., 2013, A Field Guide to the Native Trees of Palau. 2nd edition. USDA p58

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 55

Liefting, A., et al, Samoan plant names. http://en.wikipedia.org

Li Ping-tao; Antony J. M. Leeuwenberg, David J. Middleton, Apocynaceae, Flora of China

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 175

McMakin, P.D., 2000, Flowering Plants of Thailand. A Field Guide. White Lotus. p 7

Parham, B. E. V., 1972, Plants of Samoa. New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Information Series. No. 85 p 65

Peekel, P.G., 1984, (Translation E.E.Henty), Flora of the Bismarck Archipelago for Naturalists, Division of Botany, Lae, PNG. p 443, 442

Putri, R. V., et al, 2014, Ethnobotanical Study of Plant Resources in Serangan Island, Bali. Asian Journal of Conservation Biology, December 2014. Vol. 3 No. 2, pp. 135–148

Scarth-Johnson, V., 2000, National Treasures. Flowering Plants of Cooktown and Northern Australia. Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery Association. Cooktown, Australia. p 38

Schatz, G.E., 2001, Generic Tree Flora of Madagascar. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden. p 52

Smith, A.C., 1988, Flora Vitiensis Nova, Lawaii, Kuai, Hawaii, Volume 4 p 89

Sp. pl. 1:208. 1753

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 190

Thaman, R. R., 1987, Plants of Kiribati: A listing and analysis of vernacular names. Atoll Research Bulletin No. 296

Topp, J. M. W., 1988, An Annotated Check List of the Flora of Diego Garcia, British Ocean Territory. Atoll Research Bulletin No. 313 (As Cerbera odollam) (Rare)

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 130

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Yuncker, T.G., 1959, Plants of Tonga, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii, Bulletin 220. p 221

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/237d2869-69b2-40c2-a035-92f5ad39139f