PLANT FACT SHEET

Freycinetia scandens Gaudich.

GENUS *Freycinetia* **FAMILY** Pandanaceae

COMMON NAMES Climbing pandan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten but burn the mouth.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing shrub. It climbs up trees to a height of 15 m. The stem is about 1 cm across. The leaves and narrow and thin. They are rather loosely set on the stem. Leaves are 6-12 cm long and 1-2.5 cm wide. The tip of the leaf is pointed. The leaf sheaths do not overlap. They are finely toothed along the edge and on the midrib underneath. The flower branches are oval and 3-4 together. The fruit are about 5.5 cm long by 4 cm wide. They can occur singly or in clusters at the end of the stems. They have many seeds. The fruit when ripe are red. There are small projections over the surface of the fruit.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in the rainforest and in mixed forest. It requires a shady position. It needs plenty of water year round.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings or by division of the plant. It can also be grown from very fresh seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, fruit occur from January to May.

NOTES

There are about 100-175 Freycinetia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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