PLANT FACT SHEET

Bischofia javanica Blume

GENUS *Bischofia* **FAMILY** Phyllanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Java cedar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten raw and are sweet. They are also used for drinks.
The leaves are cooked with pork. (This may be to tenderise the pork.)
Young leaves are eaten in salads and used as a condiment.
The seeds are eaten.
The young buds are used for pickles.

DESCRIPTION

A large stocky tree. It grows up to 40 m tall. It can range from 5 to 30 m tall. The trunk is 1 m across, and straight. The trunk is covered with dull brown scaly bark. It is 2 cm thick and peels off in irregular flakes. The bark gives a red exudate when cut. The branches are numerous and form a dense rounded crown. The leaves are alternate, and with 3 leaflets. The leaf has a long leaf stalk. The leaflets are oval and tapering towards the tip. The edges of the leaflets are toothed. The leaves are dark green and glossy on the upper surface and light green and smooth underneath. The flowering branch has many branches. The individual flowers are small numerous and yellow-green. Trees have male and female flowers on separate plants. The fruit are rounded and fleshy. They have 3 to 4 cells and are reddish brown. They are 3 mm across. They contain 6 small seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowland and lower mountain zones. It grows from sea level to 900 m in Fiji. In Nepal it grows to about 1000 m altitude. It is often in disturbed forest or old garden land. They occur throughout the Philippines in dry open places. It can tolerate some shade and light frost but is best in full sun. It needs fertile, well drained soil. It suits hardiness zones 9-12. In XTBG Yunnan. In Sichuan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or cuttings. Seedlings are transplanted after 3-4 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows very quickly. In NE India fruit are available June to July.

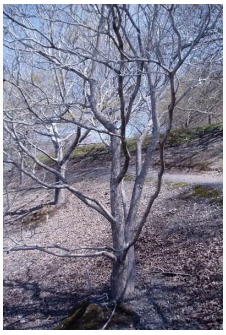
NOTES

There is only one (2) Bischofia species. It can become invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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Mot So Rau Dai an Duoc O Vietnam. Wild edible Vegetables. Ha Noi 1994, p 120 (As Bischofia trifoliata)

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