PLANT FACT SHEET

Manilkara obovata (Sabine et G. Don) J. H. Hemsl.

GENUS *Manilkara* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES African pearwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit can be eaten fresh. Often fruit are collected and left in the shade for about 2 days to ripen. Fruit can be dried and stored and eaten later.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 30 m high. The trunk is long, straight and clean and 1 m across. It is fluted at the base. The crown is small. The bark is grey. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are clustered at the ends of branches. The leaves are 3-10 cm long by 2-6 cm wide. They are broadly oval and wedge shaped. They are hairy underneath when young. The flowers are in groups in the axils where older leaves have fallen. They are white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near lagoons and rivers. It can grow in lowland forest. In Tanzania it grows between 1,100-1,300 m above sea level and to 1,400 m in Nigeria. It can be cultivated in swampy areas.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania ripe fruit are collected from March to June. Dried fruit can be stored for several weeks.

NOTES

There are about 75 Manilkara species.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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