PLANT FACT SHEET

Memecylon edule Roxb.

GENUS *Memecylon* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

COMMON NAMES Red ironwood tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The young leaves are eaten fresh or lightly boiled.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 23 m high. The leaves are opposite and simple. They are 10 cm long by 4 cm wide. They are oval. The flowers are blue to purple and 2 mm across. They are in bundles in the axils of leaves. The fruit are blue to purple and 8 mm long by 6 mm across. There are 1-2 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in a range of forest types including swamp forest. It grows up to 1,400 m above sea level. It is often on alluvial sites near rivers. It is usually on sandy soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India the plants fruit in April to May.

NOTES

Also put in the family Memecylaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/284425e5-7e63-4ce5-9d3d-3c8ffd8677fb