PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Flacourtia inermis* Roxb.

**GENUS** *Flacourtia* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Lovi-lovi, Thornless rukam

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

Many kinds have sour fruit so they are often cooked or used for jam, jellies, syrups and preserves. The seeds are removed.

## DESCRIPTION

It is a small tree. It grows up to 5-15 m high. It is without spines on the trunk. The trunk is often crooked. Leaves are 10-20 cm long and 5-9 cm wide. New leaves are deep red. Flowers have both sexes. The fruit is round, green when young and dark red when ripe. It is about 2-3 cm across. It has 5 seeds inside.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot humid tropical lowlands. Trees occur in New Britain in Papua New Guinea and some other coastal areas. They grow from sea level up to about 1300 m. They can grown on a variety of soils.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Trees are mostly grown from seed. It is better to grow them by air layering or budding. Seedlings take up to 18 months to be ready to plant out. A spacing of 12-16 m apart is needed. Seeds are small.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees last for about 20 years. Fruit is mostly ready about May to July in the Southern hemisphere. Fruit matures in 60 days. A well maintained tree can yield 250 kg of fruit.

## NOTES

There are about 17 Flacourtia species. Also put in the Flacourtiaceae family.

## 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)

## REFERENCES


Lovi lovi references Flacourtia inermis

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 225

Ashton, M. S., et al 1997, A Field Guide to the Common Trees and Shrubs of Sri Lanka. WHT Publications Ltd. pdf p 213

Backer, 1907, Fl. Bat. 1, 68

Backer & Bakh. f. 1963-1968. Flora of Java.

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 190

Borrell, O.W., 1989, An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 80

Burkill, I.H., 1935, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. p. 1039

Clos, 1857, Ann. Sc. Nat. 1V, 8, 216

Corner, E.J.H., 1940, Wayside Trees of Malaya. p 307

Coronel, R.E., 1982, Fruit Collections in the Philippines. IBPGR Newsletter p 10

Darley, J.J., 1993, Know and Enjoy Tropical Fruit. P & S Publishers. p 131

Etoh, T. & Sundaresan, 1985, Food Plants in Fiji and Their Utilization. Kagoshima Univ. Res. Center S. Pac, Occasional Papers, No. 5. p. 145-164.

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 117

French, B.R., 1986, Food Plants of Papua New Guinea, A Compendium. Asia Pacific Science Foundation p 246

French, B.R., 2010, Food Plants of Solomon Islands. A Compendium. Food Plants International Inc. p 241

Gilg., 1918, Bot. Jahrb. 55, 282

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 310

Heyne, K., 1927, Nutt. Plant. Ned. Ind. p 1140

Hook. f. Flora of British India. 1872-1897

Hu, Shiu-ying, 2005, Food Plants of China. The Chinese University Press. p 564

Jack, W., 1820, Descriptions of Malayan Plants. p 25. 1977 reprint Boerhaav. Press, Leiden.

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1869

Lembaga Biologi Nasional, 1977, Buah-Buahan, Balai Pustaka, Jakarta. p 84

Little, E. L., et al, 1974, Trees of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. USDA Handbook 449. Forestry Service. p 580

Macmillan, H.F. (Revised Barlow, H.S., et al) 1991, Tropical Planting and Gardening. Sixth edition. Malayan Nature Society. Kuala Lumpur. p 300

Martin, F. W., et al, 1987, Perennial Edible Fruits of the Tropics. USDA Handbook 642 p 28

Miguel, E., et al, 1989, A checklist of the cultivated plants of Cuba. Kulturpflanze 37. 1989, 211-357

Morton, J. F., 1987, Fruits of Warm Climates. Wipf & Stock Publishers p 317

Ochse,J.J., Dijkman,M.J., Soule, M.J.& Wehlburg,C., 1961, Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture. p 604-606.

Perera, A. H. and Rajapakse, R. M. N., 1991, A baseline study of Kandyan Forest Gardens of Sri Lanka: Structure, composition and utilization. Forest Ecology and Management, 45:269-280

Pl. Coromandel 3:16, t. 222. 1811

Kunkel, G., Plants for human consumption

Sleumer, H., 1954, Flacourtiaceae in Flora Malesiana, Ser 1 Vol 5(1) p 71

Steenis, ed. 1948-. Flora malesiana.

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 295

Suwardi, A.B., et al, 2023, The diversity and regional conservation status of wild edible fruit species in Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 24 No. 6. pp 3245-3257

Terrell et al. 1986. Agric. Handb. no. 505.

Uji, T., 2005, Plants diversity and its potential in Buton Utara Game Reserve, South-East Sulawesi. Biodiversitas Vol. 6 No. 3. Halaman 205-211

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. Available: www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/econ.pl (10 April 2000)

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 307

**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/2a0f6075-2105-4fc0-b4d5-a915c9d2b653