PLANT FACT SHEET

Bridelia tomentosa Blume

GENUS *Bridelia* **FAMILY** Phyllanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Kenidai, Pop-gun seed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The small ripe fruit are eaten raw.
The fruit have been used in pepper.

DESCRIPTION

A small spindly shrub 2-3 m high. They can grow to 10 m high and be 2-3 m across. The young shoots are covered with short tangled hairs. The tree loses many of its leaves during the year. The bark is tight and smooth and mottled creamy-grey. The leaves are small and not shiny. The leaf shape and size varies considerably even on one plant. Leaves are 3.5-8.5 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. They are light green above and paler underneath. The leaf tip can be rounded or pointed. The veins are easily seen. The flowers are small and green. They can occur on their own or in small groups. It produces small berry like fruit along the twigs. The fruit are green when young and turn black when ripe. They are 0.4-0.6 cm across. These enclose one or two hard shelled seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open savannah grassland and in secondary regrowth. It grows in tropical lowland areas below about 450 m altitude. They are found in areas of shrub throughout the Philippines. The plant occurs in countries from India to Australia. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants grow wild. They can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia they flower in March to May and fruit from April to June.

NOTES

There are about 60 Bridelia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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