PLANT FACT SHEET

Payena leerii (Teijsm. & Binn.) Kurz

GENUS *Payena* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Balam suntei tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fleshy part of the fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 38 m high. The trunk is 80 cm across. There are buttresses 2 m high. The twigs are 1-5 mm thick. The leaves are papery to leathery. They are oval and 3.5-14 cm long by 1.5-7.5 cm wide. They are broadest in the middle. They taper to the tip. The edges roll inwards. The base is unequal. There are 7-16 pairs of secondary veins. The flowers are white or yellowish-white. They can occur singly or in clusters of up to 7. The fruit is cone shaped with a flat base. It is 2.5-5 cm long by 0.9-1.3 cm wide. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland and heath forest up to 1,000 m altitude. It is often in swampy places near the coast. It suits the wet tropics. They occur in the primary forests in the Philippines of Mindanao, Palawan and Tawi-tawi.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

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

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