PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus stuhlmannii Warb.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Stuhlmann's wild fig, Lowveld fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The pulp of the ripe fruit is eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a medium sized strangler. It grows up to 10 m tall. It has a dense well formed crown. The bark is pale white to grey. The stem is ribbed and fluted. The leaves are oblong and 9-18 cm long by 4-8 cm wide. They are leathery and dark green. Underneath the veins form a net. Underneath is also velvety. The base of the leaf is square and slightly lobed. The leaf stalk is 2 cm long and thick. The figs are small and often less than 10 mm long but can be 2 cm long. They are oval and often in pairs. They are velvety green with a reddish tinge.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and highlands. It grows at low altitudes and in mixed forests. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,500 m above sea level. In Tanzania it grows in areas with a rainfall between 1,000-1,400 mm.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or by cuttings.
The pollinator wasp is Alfonsiella binghami Wiebes.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania the fruit are collected in June-July.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

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