PLANT FACT SHEET

Melicope lunu-ankenda (Gaertn.) T.G. Hartley

GENUS *Melicope* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Sour-relish wood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Spice, leaves - condiment

The leaves are used as a flavouring for food dishes. The leaves are sour in taste. They are also used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It can grow up to 30 m high. The young branches can be velvety. The leaves are opposite and have 3 leaflets. The leaf stalks can be 2-15 cm long. The leaflets are narrowly oval and 4-23 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. They taper to the tip and the base is unequal. They have small hairs when young. The flowering bunches are in the axils of leaves. These are 2-32 cm long. The flowers are greenish-white and without stalks. The flowers are usually of one sex. The fruit are oval, 4-valved follicles having a cavity in the centre. They are 6-10 mm long. The seeds are round or flattened and 3-6 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can be in forest on well-drained or swampy land. It grows from sea level to 2,200 m above sea level. It grows on dry stony hills in south India.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 150-233 species in Malaysia and the Pacific.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3cb903db-9428-4533-83cc-94d80a2ec868