PLANT FACT SHEET

Volkameria inermis (L.) Gaertner

GENUS *Volkameria* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Mangrove clerodendrum, Scrambling clerodendrum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen scrambling shrub. It grows to 2-5 m high and spreads to 2 m across. It can be a bushy climber. The stem is erect and branching. The bark is smooth and mottled cream-brown. The leaves are glossy green, and tapering. The leaf blade is 4-12 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. They have a small pointed tip. The leaf stalk is long. The flowers are white and like tubes 4-5 cm long and 2 cm across. They have 5 spreading lobes. The stamens are purple, about 3 cm long and protrude out the end. The flowers have a sweet smell and occur in clusters. These are normally at the ends of new shoots. The fruit is round and 1-2 cm across. There are cup shaped lobes at the base. The fruit are purple black when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It prefers rich, well drained soil. It grows best in a sheltered, partly shaded position but also likes sun. It is drought and frost tender. It occurs naturally in coastal regions and in monsoon vine forests. Often it is on old sand dunes and near mangroves. It can tolerate being flooded with salty water. Adelaide Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. Plants can be kept bushy by regular pruning.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants flower in February to September and fruit April to July.

NOTES

Leaves have been used to treat sores, by rubbing on them. There are about 400 Clerodendrum species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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