PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Strychnos madagascariensis Poiret

GENUS *Strychnos* **FAMILY** Loganiaceae

COMMON NAMES Black monkey orange

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds

The flesh is removed and dried then eaten with honey. It can also be eaten when fresh. It can be used for a drink. The dried fruit are ground into a fine powder then used for making porridge.
The seeds are not eaten. They contain strychnine and other poisonous alkaloids. (It has been recorded that the dried seeds are edible)
CAUTION: Many Loganiaceae are very poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

It can be a bush or a tall spineless tree. It can have one or many stems. They can grow to 15 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are in opposite pairs. They are 2-9 cm long by 1.3-6 cm wide. They are oblong and narrow to the base. The leaves are thickish. The flowers are small and yellow. They are borne in bunches in the axils of leaves or on old wood. The fruit are large. They can be 4-10 cm across and round. They have a hard woody shell. They are blue-green but become yellow-brown when ripe. There are a large number of flat seeds. These are in a pleasant tasting pulp.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in woodland and along rivers and in the coastal forest. In Tanzania it grows between 900-1,500 m above sea level. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seed germinate easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are fairly fast-growing. Fruit are normally available during the wet season.

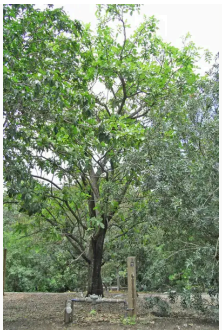
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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