PLANT FACT SHEET

Graptophyllum pictum (L.) Griffith

GENUS *Graptophyllum* **FAMILY** Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Caricature Plant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers - tea

The young leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub 2-3 m high. The leaves are up to 15 cm long and 6 cm wide and coloured. They can be green, silver, yellow or red. The leaves have markings like writing on them. The leaves occur opposite one another. The edges of the leaves can be irregular and wavy. The leaf stalk is 2-4 cm long. The flowers are reddish purple in clusters on the tops of plants. The flower clusters are 8 cm long and the flowers have an inflated throat. The lip of the flower is dark red. The fruit is a capsule which is often beaked. It is 3-4 cm long. There can be up to 4 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in the New Guinea region. It mostly occurs in coastal areas below 800 m altitude. It grows in sago swamps. They need a temperature above 13°C. The green form often grows naturally in forests on coral. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings of young wood with a heel attached. Plants can be grown from seed. The temperature needs to be above 19-24°C. Picking out the tips increases the branching.

NOTES

There are 10 Graptophyllum species. They are in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 247

Borrell, O.W., 1989, An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 44

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 480 (Photo)

Bourke, R. M., Altitudinal limits of 230 economic crop species in Papua New Guinea. Terra australis 32.

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 1128

Cabalion, P. and Morat, P., 1983, Introduction le vegetation, la flore et aux noms vernaculaires de l'ile de Pentcoste (Vanuatu), In: Journal d'agriculture traditionnelle et de botanique appliquee JATBA Vol. 30, 3-4

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 647

Engel, D.H., & Phummai, S., 2000, A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia. Timber Press. p 183

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 351

French, B.R., 1986, Food Plants of Papua New Guinea, A Compendium. Asia Pacific Science Foundation p 350

Haberle, 1990,

Hide, R., et al, 1979, A checklist of some plants in the territory of the Sinasina Nimai (Simbai Province, Papua New Guinea), with notes on their uses. Department Anthropology, University of Aukland

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 113

Lavelle, M., 2008, Wild Flowers of Australia and Oceania. Southwater. p 101

Leach, G. J., 1988, Bush Food Plants of the Blackwater and Karawari Rivers Area, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. Science in New Guinea 14(2). p 102

Lebot, V. & Sam, C., Green desert or 'all you can eat'? How diverse and edible was the flora of Vanuatu before human introductions?. Terra australis 52 p 410

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 32

McMakin, P.D., 2000, Flowering Plants of Thailand. A Field Guide. White Lotus. p 2

Not. pl. asiat. 4:139. 1854

Peekel, P.G., 1984, (Translation E.E.Henty), Flora of the Bismarck Archipelago for Naturalists, Division of Botany, Lae, PNG. p 515, 519 (Drawing)

Plants of Haiti Smithsonian Institute http://botany.si.edu

Powell, J.M., Ethnobotany. In Paijmans, K., 1976, New Guinea Vegetation. Australian National University Press. p 110.

Powell, J.M., 1982,

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 84 (Drawing)

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 635

Thaman, R. R., 1987, Plants of Kiribati: A listing and analysis of vernacular names. Atoll Research Bulletin No. 296

Walter, A. & Lebot, V., 2007, Gardens of Oceania. ACIAR Monograph No. 122. CD-ROM minor species p 12

Waruruai, J., et al, 2011, An ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants used in the Siwai and Buin districts of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. J Ethnopharmacol . 2011 November 18; 138(2): 564–577

Wood, 1984,

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Yuncker, T.G., 1959, Plants of Tonga, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii, Bulletin 220. p 243

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/452d02a3-37a2-4119-9d4f-798226f138cc