PLANT FACT SHEET

Dendrocnide excelsa (Wedd.) Chew

GENUS *Dendrocnide* **FAMILY** Urticaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant stinging tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Fruit stalk

Caution: The plant has stinging hairs.
The fruit is edible after the stinging hairs are removed.

DESCRIPTION

A tall spreading tree. It grows 10-38 m high and spreads 5-15 m wide. The bark is grey and scaly. The timber is soft. The young parts are covered with stiff stinging hairs. The leaves are 15-30 cm long by 15-20 cm wide. They are broadly oval and pale green. There are teeth around the edge. The leaf stalks are 3-15 cm long. The flowering stalks are in the axils of leaves. The flowers are of one sex. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The nut is 0.1-0.2 cm across. It is on a fleshy stalk. This is white or pink.

HABITAT

It grows in rainforests in subtropical and warm temperate places. It is often in clearings and on the edges of the forest. It needs a well drained soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed or by cuttings.

NOTES

There are 36 Dendrocnide species. CAUTION: Leaves sting badly.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/477218c1-fbd8-4ce3-b820-7d2cd12c49c5