PLANT FACT SHEET

Benstonea monticola (F. Muell.) Callm. & Buerki

GENUS *Benstonea* **FAMILY** Pandanaceae

COMMON NAMES Rainforest Screw Pine, Urchin-fruited pandan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The flesh is edible but it can irritate the mouth.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows up to 3-5 m tall and spreads 1-4 m wide. The stems are slender and almost climbing. There are no prop roots. The leaves are simple and 1-2 m long by 5-7 cm wide. The edges of the leaves have teeth. The midrib also has teeth. The tips of the leaves are often drooping. The male flowering stalk is branched and 10-15 cm long. The male spike is 5-7 cm long. It has cream or white bracts below it. The female flower is unbranched and has white bracts. The fruiting heads are up to 12 cm long by 8 cm wide. They occur singly and are very prickly. They contain many seeds. The seeds are 4-10 mm long. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in rainforest in NE Queensland in Australia. It grows from sea level to 840 m altitude. They grow in shade. Plants fruit better in sunny locations. It needs well drained soil. In Cairns BG. In Townsville Anderson BG.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed.

NOTES

There are about 600 Pandanus species. They grow in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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