PLANT FACT SHEET

Lepisanthes fruticosa (Roxb.) Leenh.

GENUS *Lepisanthes* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Mojowontu, Lunan nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds, Nuts

The seeds are roasted and eaten.
The aril of the ripe fruit is eaten raw.
The leaves are eaten raw as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 2-10 m high. The trunk is 2-15 cm across. It can occasionally be a creeper. The bark is grey brown and smooth. The leaves are alternate, smooth and papery. They have 3 to 4 divisions of leaflets evenly arranged. The leaflets are much paler beneath and smooth and shiny. They have a blunt point and are entire. They are rigid at the base with a pair of rounded green leaflets. The flower arrangement is both in the axils of leaves and at the ends and there are many flowers. The flowers are yellow to red and are 6 mm across. They are in groups. The fruit are light red or pink and black if ripe. It is 4 cm across. Fruit and young leaves are eaten.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open places in primary and secondary forest. It can be along rivers and in swamps. It grows from sea level to about 600 m altitude. It can be up to 1,400 m above sea level. They are widely scattered in areas of shrub at low elevations throughout the Philippines. It suits the wet tropics.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds and cuttings.

NOTES

There are 24-40 Lepisanthes species. They are mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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