PLANT FACT SHEET

Lepisanthes alata (Blume) Leenh.

GENUS *Lepisanthes* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Lepisanthes berry, Perupok tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw. They are sweet but tart.
The leaves are eaten raw as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15 m high. The leaves are 20-45 cm long and have 3-5 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets are sword shaped and 10-20 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. The young leaves are purple. The flowering stalks are often drooping. Male and female flowers are separate on the same tree. The flowers are dark red or purple. The fruit are in clusters of about 20 fruit. The fruit are oval and 3 sided. They are 3-4 cm long by 3 cm wide. They are dark brownish purple and turn red. The pulp is fleshy and white. The seeds are narrowly oval and 2.5 cm long by 1.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests along river banks. It grows up to about 100 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruiting can occur throughout the year.

NOTES

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

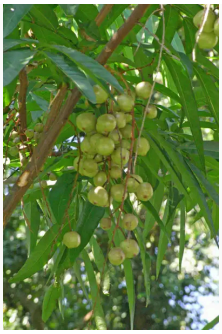
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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