PLANT FACT SHEET

Brucea antidysenterica J. F. Mill.

GENUS *Brucea* **FAMILY** Simaroubaceae

COMMON NAMES Waginos

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - spice, Fruit, Medicine

The bark is used as a bitter flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It only has a few branches. It grows about 6-9 m tall. The bark is grey and there are heart shaped leaf scars. The leaves are alternate and usually crowded near the ends of the younger twigs. The leaves are 10-65 cm long and compound. They have 2-6 pairs of leaflets along the stalk and one at the end. The flowering shoots are 5-35 cm long. The male and female flowers are separate on separate flowering shoots. The flowers are very small and green.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows as an understorey plant in the rainforest. It suits humid locations. In Malawi it grows between 1,400-2,800 m altitude. It continues growing in the dry season.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seed can be stored for over a year.

NOTES

There are about 10 Brucea species. Possibly edible. Also in Rutaceae family.
It contains a chemical called Bruceantin that helps kill amoeba causing dysentery. The bark, fruit and leaves are used. It helps control malaria parasites.
It has anticancer properties.

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