PLANT FACT SHEET

Zanthoxylum armatum DC.

GENUS *Zanthoxylum* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Nepal pepper, Prickly ash bark

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves, Twigs, Spice

Fresh fruit are pickled and also used as a spice. The seeds are used in seasoning for pickles and chutneys.
The young twigs are used as a spice.
The young leaves are used as a condiment including in beef curry.
The shells of the fruit are dried and used for seasoning.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub. It grows about 3-6 m high. It can lose its leaves during the year. The bark is corky. The branches have strong prickles. The leaves have stalks. They are alternate. They are slightly winged. There are spines at the base. The leaves are 5-23 cm long. There are an odd number of leaflets. There are 3-9 leaflets. They are 2-10 cm long by 1.5-2.5 cm wide. They do not have a leaf stalk. They are sword shaped and dotted with glands. The flowers are small and white. They occur in loose clusters. These can be at the ends of branches or in the axils of leaves. Male and female flowers are separate. The fruit are round and red. They split into two valves. There is a single seed in each section which is shiny and black.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in rainforest and often at higher elevations. In SE Asia it grows up to 1750 m altitude. In Nepal plants grow between 110-2900 m altitude. In Argentina it grows above 700 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed or branch cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 200 Zanthoxylum species.

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