PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus exasperata Vahl

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES White fig tree, Forest sandpaper fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a tree. It grows 21 m tall. The trunk can be 50 cm across. It can have slight buttresses. It does not have aerial roots. It loses its leaves in the dry season. The leaves are rough like sandpaper. They have teeth around the edge. They are 12 cm long by 8 cm wide. The figs are in the axils of leaves or on lumps on the wood of last year's best branches. They occur singly or in pairs. They are pink or orange-red when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the drier parts of the evergreen forest in West Africa. In Malawi it grows in lowland and mid altitude rainforest and along rivers. It suits humid locations. It is recorded between 600-1,450 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The wasp pollinator is Kradibia gestroi afrum (Wiebes).

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

PICTURES



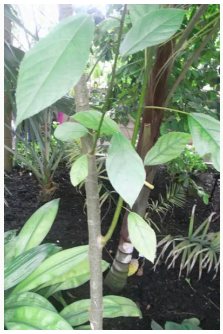
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