PLANT FACT SHEET

Cordiera sessilis (Vell.) Kuntze

GENUS *Cordiera* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Sessile cordiera

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A bush or large shrub. It loses many of its leaves during the year. It grows 2-4 m tall. The crown is dense and round. The trunk is short and has branches from the base. It is 15-20 cm across. The bark is wrinkled. The leaves are simple and opposite. The leaves are papery and smooth on both surfaces and shiny on the top surface. The leaves are 14-22 cm long and 4-7 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 6-12 mm long and have a groove along them. There are 6-7 pairs of side veins. Plants are separately male and female. The flowers are white and the female flowers occur singly while the male flowers are in groups of 8-15 in the axils of leaves. The fruit are round berries 3-5 cm across. The pulp is fleshy and sweet. The skin is thin. There are many small seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout most of Brazil. It grows near streams and in soil that is clayey and fertile in Brazil. It needs good drainage and abundant organic matter.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants are grown from seed.

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