PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Brucea javanica (L.) Merr.

GENUS *Brucea* **FAMILY** Simaroubaceae

COMMON NAMES Kusam seeds, Makassar kernel tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

The fruit is used to make chutney. The dried fruit are used in pickles.
CAUTION: Fruit normally considered very poisonous. It is probably used in medicine. It is rich in alkaloids. They are used to reduce diarrhoea.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows to a height of 3-7 m and spreads to 3 m across. The stem is erect and branching. It is hairy when young. The leaves are compound leaves and produced alternately. They are 30-50 cm long and have 5 to 11 leaflets. These are oval but tapering to the tip and with coarse teeth around the edge. The leaflets are 5-8 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. The flowers are purple and small. The fruit are about 5 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows best in rich, moist, well drained soils in a sheltered partly shaded position. It commonly grows along creek banks. It needs a temperature above 15-18°C. It grows up to 1,000 m above sea level in Borneo. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. Seed should be sown when fresh.

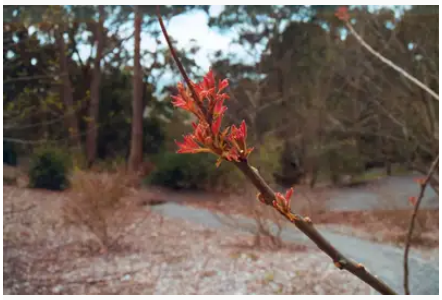
NOTES

There are about 10 Brucea species. Probably used as medicine for treating worms not leaves eaten for food. It is used as medicine in Indonesia. The seeds are used to treat dysentery. It has anticancer properties.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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