PLANT FACT SHEET

Oldfieldia dactylophylla (Welw. ex Oliv.) J. Leonard

GENUS *Oldfieldia* **FAMILY** Picrodendraceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The pulp of the fruit is edible. The ripe fruit are eaten and the seeds discarded.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 15 m high. It loses many leaves during the year. The trunk is short and is usually swollen at the base. The crown is flattened due to spreading branches. The small branches are thick and have red-brown hairs. The bark is grey and scaly with deep cracks. The leaves are compound with leaflets like fingers on a hand. There are 3-7 unequal leaflets. They are dark green and leathery. They are shiny above and have brown hairs underneath. The leaves have stalks 1 cm long. The flowers are very small. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. Female flowers occur singly and male flowers are in dense clusters. They are orange-brown. The fruit is round and a dull yello-green colour. They are 2 cm across and have soft hairs. The fruit break open to release the seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the savannah. It grows in Miombo woodland.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania the fruit are collected from April to May.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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