PLANT FACT SHEET

Bridelia ferruginea Benth.

GENUS *Bridelia* **FAMILY** Phyllanthaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark, Spice

The bark is used as a spice in food processing. It is also used to strengthen wine.
The ripe fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A gnarled shrub or small tree. It grows 6-15 m high. The trunk is crooked and it branches low down. The bark is dark grey and rough and often scaly. The small branches are long and thin. They can have short spines. The leaves are usually 3.5-10 cm long by 2.5-6 cm wide. The leaves have a tip which curves downwards. The leaf stalks are 5 mm long, stout and hairy. The flowers are creamy yellow and have a scent. The fruit are oval and 6-7.5 mm long. The fruit persist on the branches.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in savannah or open woodland. In Nigeria it has been recorded at 230 and 1,060 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 60 Bridelia species.

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