PLANT FACT SHEET

Schleichera oleosa (Lour.) Oken

GENUS *Schleichera* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Lac tree, Ceylon oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, seeds - oil, Seeds, bud

The fruit arillus is used to make some dishes acid.
Seed oil is used for cooking. It needs to be carefully refined. It is then edible.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw. Young fruit are pickled.
The seeds are eaten raw or cooked.
The young leaves and shoots are eaten raw. They are also used in soups or steamed and served with rice or fish.

DESCRIPTION

A tree 15-25 m tall. It keeps its leaves most of the year. The bark is grey and flaky. The bark is reddish brown inside. The leaves have stalks and are divided into leaflets along the stalk. The leaflets are in 2-4 pairs. They have short leaflets. They are 6-26 cm long by 3-9 cm wide. They are oblong. New leaves are reddish. The flowers have short stalks. They are yellowish. They occur in side stalks with equal stalk length flowers along it. These appear with new purple leaves. Flowers can be male or of both sexes. The fruit is oval and green when ripe. They are 2 cm long and 1.5 cm across. The fruit have blunt prickles. There are 1-2 oily seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits moist tropical regions. It grows in wet dense forests. In Nepal it grows up to 300 m altitude. In India they occur all over the country in mixed deciduous forests. In Indonesia it grows up to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed should be sown fresh. Seedlings do not transplant well. They can also be grown using root suckers.

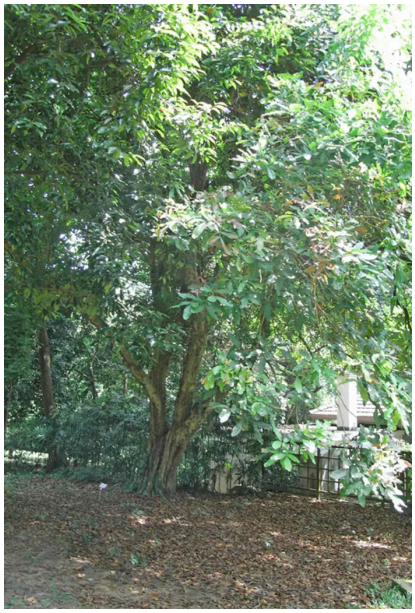
Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. In India fruit are available May to July. Fruit can be stored for 4-5 days.

NOTES

There is only one Schleichera species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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