PLANT FACT SHEET

Dictyophleba lucida (K. Schum.) Pierre

GENUS *Dictyophleba* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Milk apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The pulp of the fruit is eaten raw.
Ripe fruit are also cut, the pulp soaked in water, squeezed, sugar added and filtered then used as a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A woody creeper. It can grow 35 m long and be 50 cm around. It has many branches. It can climb by tendrils. The leaves are 6-14 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They are narrowly oval. The veins are raised under the leaf. The veins curve forming a vein near the edge of the leaf. The flowers are in clusters at the top of the plant. The flowers have a sweet scent. The fruit can be 3 cm long by 4.5 cm wide and almost round. They are green, yellow or red. The pulp is yellow. They are edible. The seeds are up to 11 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Malawi it is common in lake shore forests. In Tanzania it grows between 1 and 1,100 m above sea level. It grows in forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania ripe fruit are collected from February to June. In Congo fruit are available December to January.

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