PLANT FACT SHEET

Garcinia gerrardii Harv. ex Sim

GENUS *Garcinia* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Forest mangosteen, Forest garcinia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.
They are also used for alcoholic drinks. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 13 m high but may grow higher in tropical places. The crown is glossy green. The branches and twigs have grooves. The sap is brownish yellow and sticky. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are leathery. They are 2.5-13 cm long by 1.3-6 cm wide. They are egg shaped. The tip is pointed. The edges of the leaves often roll inwards. The leaves are dark glossy green on top and paler underneath. The flowers are male and female on separate trees. They occur in bunches at the ends of branches. The flowers have 4 white petals and sepals which are green with brown marks. The fruit is a round berry 2.5 cm long. It is orange when ripe and edible.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows in forests and at the edges of forests from sea level to 600 m altitude.

NOTES

There are about 300 Garcinia species.

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