PLANT FACT SHEET

Myrciaria dubia (Kunth) McVaugh

GENUS *Myrciaria* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Camu camu, Rumberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are occasionally eaten fresh.
More commonly they are used to flavour drinks, ice-creams and sweets. They need sweetening with sugar.

DESCRIPTION

A low growing shrub. It grows to 2-3 m high but can be taller. The trunk can be 15 cm across. The leaves are oval to sword shaped. They are 4.5-12 cm long by 1.5-4.5 cm wide. It has large feathery leaves. The flowers are in the axils of leaves and have short stalks. The fruit are round and light orange colour. It can be shiny red to dark purple. Fruit are 1-3.2 cm across. It has juicy, acid sweet pulp. There are 3 kidney shaped seeds. These are 8-15 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the Amazon rainforest in swampy areas. The lower section can often be submerged in water. It grows best in hot, wet, tropical climates. It can be grown in the subtropics and can stand temperatures down to freezing. It needs plenty of moisture and can stand flooding. Trees can almost become totally flooded and still fruit. It normally grows in regions with 1,500-4,000 mm rain per year. The temperatures are about 25°C. It needs a minimum average temperature above 20°C.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The pulp is washed off the seeds and they are sown fresh.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedlings can take 4-5 years to begin producing fruit. A mature tree can produce 15 kg of fruit. It can be irregular fruiting.

NOTES

These are one of the highest recorded Vit C plants known. It has 100 times the Vit C of orange. In is rich in anti-oxidants.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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