PLANT FACT SHEET

Cinnamomum subavenium Miquel

GENUS *Cinnamomum* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Small-leaved aromatic cassia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - spice, Bark - spice

The leaves are an important spice for food. They are used for flavouring.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows up to 20 m tall. The trunk is 50 cm across. The bark is grey and smooth. The young branches are slender and covered with yellow hairs. Leaves on young branches are almost opposite but on old branches are alternate. Leaves are oval to sword shaped and the leaf blade is 4-13.5 cm long by 2-6 cm wide. Leaves are leathery. In young leaves are upper surface is dark green with yellow hairs. They become smooth with age. The lower surface is yellow green. The base of the leaf is rounded and it tapers to the tip. The flowers are greenish-yellow. They are in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit is oval and 7 mm long by 5 mm wide. They are blue-black when mature.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In southern China it grows in evergreen forest and mountain slopes between 400-1100 m altitude. It can be higher. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 250 Cinnamomum species.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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