PLANT FACT SHEET

Guettarda pohliana Mull. Arg.

GENUS *Guettarda* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Veludinha, Veludinho, Veludo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The small amount of juicy sweet flesh is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 3-7 m tall. It has many branches. The trunk is short and crooked and 15-25 cm across. The bark is grey and splits irregularly. The leaves are opposite. The leaf blades are oval or sword shaped and 5-8 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. The flowers are in a flat topped group in the axils of leaves and at the ends of branches. There are 7-20 flowers in a group. The fruit is fleshy with a stone inside and velvety black when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in seasonal forests in Brazil. It is often along streams in moist soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The ripe fruit are shaken into a canvas and allowed to dry. These dried fruits need to be planted fresh into a seedbed under part shade. Seedlings emerge in 80-100 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

REFERENCES

Lorenzi, H., 2009, Brazilian Trees. A Guide to the Identification and Cultivation of Brazilian Native Trees. Instituto Plantarum de Estuados da Flora Ltda. Vol. 3 p 298

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