PLANT FACT SHEET

Madhuca indica J. F. Gmel.

GENUS *Madhuca* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Mahua tree, Illipe butter, Illipe nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Seeds, Oil

The mature corolla of the flowers are sweet and eaten raw or cooked.
The seeds yield an oil which is edible after refining.
The flowers are rich in sugars used for preparation of distilled liqueurs and vinegar. The flowers are dried and eaten raw or cooked. The fresh flowers can be stored for 2-3 days.
Both the ripe and unripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows up to 15 m high. The trunk is short. There are many branches forming a tick leafy layer. The bark is dark coloured and cracked. The bark and branches have milky sap. The leaves are clustered near the ends of branches. They are leathery. They are oval and are hairy when young. They are 10-20 cm long by 5-13 cm wide. They are coppery brown when young. The flowers hang in clusters at the ends of branches. The petals of the flower are creamy, fleshy and sweet and edible. The fruit are oval berries. They are fleshy. They are densely rusty. They are 4-5 cm across. There are 1-4 seeds.

Possibly now Madhuca longifolia var. latifolia.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Trees are common throughout the Indian plains.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Fresh seed should be used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

A good tree can produce 200 kg of petals per year.

NOTES

The seeds contain 30% edible oil.
Medicine.

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