PLANT FACT SHEET

Bruguiera parviflora (Roxb.) Wight & Arn. ex Griff.

GENUS *Bruguiera* **FAMILY** Rhizophoraceae

COMMON NAMES Slender-fruited Orange Mangrove

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Embryo

The fruit if eaten is only occasionally used.
The germinating embryo is eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A straight growing tree of medium size. It reaches 35 m high. The trunk is straight and up to 30 cm across. The bark is smooth and grey with white blotches. It can have buttresses up to 1 m high and has knee shaped aerial roots. The leaves are in tufts at the end of the upward bending twigs. The leaves are dull or yellowish green, long and tapering at both ends. They are 4-11 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. The leaf stalk is less than 2.5 cm. The flowers are in groups of 2-5 on stalks in the axils of leaves. The flowers are small being 0.3 cm across. The fruit is long, about 1.5- 3 cm and with 8 tiny teeth clasping the slender (10-20 cm) long hypocotyl.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on the inner edge of the mangrove swamp on level or slightly sloping ground. It occurs along flooded tidal rivers and can be flooded by normal high tides. It prefers stiff, humus rich mud. It is not shade tolerant so needs open land to germinate and grow. It occurs from India to Vanuatu.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds can be planted directly or seedlings can be transplanted. The fruit can easily be spread by rain and water and often washes onto the higher pieces of mangrove swamp land.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In the southern hemisphere it flowers and fruits in July.

NOTES

There are 6 Bruguiera species. They grow in tropical mangrove swamps.

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