PLANT FACT SHEET

Semecarpus cassuvium Roxb.

GENUS *Semecarpus* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Lewer

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, seeds, Leaves, Nuts

The kernel inside the nut is eaten after cooking.
The very young leaves are also recorded as being eaten raw.
The fruit stalk is eaten.
CAUTION Fumes from burning (cooking) nuts and probably from other parts of the plant can irritate the skin.
The sap is poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

It grows to a reasonably large tree 30-40 m tall. It can sometimes be a small tree. The trunk can vary between 3 and 40 cm. The leaves are placed in a spiral around the branches. The leaves can be 22 cm long and 10 cm wide. The leaf tapers to the tip and the base is wedge shaped. There are 10-26 pairs of side veins. The leaf stalk can be 4 cm long. The flower clusters are produced at the ends of branches. These can be 10-30 cm long or longer. The side branches of the flower cluster hang downwards. The flowers are white. The fruit is 5-6 cm across, green when young and dark red when ripe. The inside flesh around the seed is purple.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in coastal areas. It occurs from sea level to 600 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees are grown from nuts which germinate and establish fairly easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruiting is seasonal.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/850e12a7-1401-4dc7-bbad-76063d4b48d7