PLANT FACT SHEET

Murraya koenigii (L.) Spreng.

GENUS *Murraya* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Curry-leaf tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - flavouring, Fruit, Herb, Spice, Vegetable, Flowers

The leaves are used to flavour soup and curry dishes. They are also used in chutneys and stews. They are first fried in ghee or oil until crisp, then added to the curry.
The leaves are also dried and powdered and used in spice blends.
Ripe fruit are eaten fresh. They are peppery. They are used as a spice.
Leaves can be sun-dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub 1-2 m high. It can grow 4-10 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The trunk is slender and flexible. The leaves have stalks. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. These are alternate and have stalks. There are 11-15 or more leaflets. The leaves are unequal in shape. They have glands dotted on them. The leaves can be 3-7 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The leaves are shiny and bright green on top and dull and paler underneath. They eventually turn yellow and fall. In the tropics leaves can be available all year. The flowers have stalks. They are white. They occur in loose flower clusters. These are at the ends of branches. The fruit are oval and bluish-black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It is native to tropical Asia. It grows in clumps in secondary growth and undergrowth in sunny places. It can grow in temperatures between 12°C and 42°C. In Nepal it grows to about 1400 m altitude. In the Himalayas it grows between 800-1,450 m above sea level. It grows in open, dry places. They will not tolerate heavy frosts. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. At MARDI.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds or stem cuttings or root suckers. A spacing of 3.5 m is used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The leaves can be picked about one year after planting. Main production starts after about 3 years. Yields of 2-2.5 kg per square metre are possible.

NOTES

There are 12 Murraya species. They occur in tropical Asia and the Pacific.
It possibly has anti-cancer properties.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Acharya K. P. and Acharya, R., 2010, Eating from the Wild: Indigenous knowledge on wild edible plants in Parroha VDC of Rupandehi District, Central Nepal. International Journal of Social Forestry. 3(1):28-48

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 384

Arinathan, V., et al, 2007, Wild edibles used by Palliyars of the western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. 6(1) pp 163-168

Arora, R. K., 2014, Diversity in Underutilized Plant Species - An Asia-Pacific Perspective. Bioversity International. p 105

Bajpai, O., et al, 2015, Tree species of the Himalayan Terai region of Uttar Pradesh, India: a checklist. Check List 11(4): 1718

Balkrishna, A., et al, 2022, Indigenous Uses of Plants among Forest-dependent Communities of Seijosa, Arunachal Pradesh. International Journal of Economic Plants 2022, 9(1):064-080

Bandyopadhyay, S. et al, 2009, Wild edible plants of Koch Bihar district, West Bengal. Natural Products Radiance 8(1) 64-72

Banerjee, A., et al, 2013, Ethnobotanical Documentation of Some Wild Edible Plants in Bankura District, West Bengal, India. The Journal of Ethnobiology and Traditional Medicine. Photon 120 (2013) 585-590

Baro, D., Baruah, S. and Borthukar, S. K. 2015, Documentation on wild vegetables of Baksa district, BTAD (Assam). Scholars Research Library. Archives of Applied Science Research, 2015, 7 (9):19-2

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 286

Bhagat, N., et al, 2022, Wild Edible Plants of Purmandal block of District Samba, J&K (UT), India. Ethnobotany Research and Applications 24:12

Bhatia, H., et al, 2018, Traditionally used wild edible plants of district Udhampur, J&K, India. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2018) 14:73

Bhatia, H., et al, 2021, Wild Edible Fruits and Vegetables of Himachal Pradesh. Journal of Research: The Bede Athenaeum Indian Journals.com March 2021, Vol. 12 No. 1 (53-66)

Bohra, N., et al, 2017, Ethnobotany of wild edible plants traditionally used by the local people in the Ramnagar regions from Nainital District, Uttarakhand, India. Biolife 5(1): 12-19

Bouri, T. & Ganguly, S., 2016, Documentation of traditional knowledge on edible wild plants of forests in Burdwan district, West Bengal (India). Journal of Medicinal Plants Studies 2016; 4(5): 35-38

Bremness, L., 1994, Herbs. Collins Eyewitness Handbooks. Harper Collins. p 115

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1531

Burnie, G & Fenton-Smith, J., 1999, A Grower's Guide to Herbs. Murdoch Books. p 28

Cengel, D. J. & Dany, C., (Eds), 2016, Integrating Forest Biodiversity Resource Management and Sustainable Community Livelihood Development in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest. International Tropical Timber Organization p 123

Chandrakumar, P., et al, 2015, Ethnobotanical studies of wild edible plants of Gond, Halba and Kawar tribes of Salekasa Taluka, Gondia District, Maharashtra State, India. International Research Journal of Pharmacy 6(8)

Cheifetz, A., (ed), 1999, 500 popular vegetables, herbs, fruits and nuts for Australian Gardeners. Random House p 139

Chin, H. F., 1999, Malaysian Vegetables in Colour. Tropical Press. p 81

Chowdery, T., et al, 2014, Wild edible plants of Uttar Dinajpur District, West Bengal. Life Science Leaflets. 47:pp 20-36 http://lifesciencesleaflets.ning.com (As Bergera koenigii)

Chowdhury, M. & Mukherjee, R., 2012, Wild Edible Plants Consumed by Local Communities of Maldah of West Bengal, India. Indian J.Sci.Res.3(2) : 163-170

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 232 (As Bergera koenigii)

Dangol, D. R., 2002, Economic uses of forest plant resources in western Chitwan, Nepal. Banko Janakari, 12(2): 56-64

Deb, D., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plants and Their Utilization in Traditional Recipes of Tripura, Northeast India. Advances in Biological Research 7(5):203-211

Dhyani, S.K., & Sharma, R.V., 1987, Exploration of Socio-economic plant resources of Vyasi Valley in Tehri Garwhal. J. Econ. Tax. Bot. Vol. 9 No. 2 pp 299-310

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 484

Ethnobotany of Karbis. Chapter 4 in p 108

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 221

Farzana M, Tharique I., 2022, A review of edible selected green leaves which use in Sri Lankan culinary. Int J Complement Alt Med. 2022;15(5):251261.

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org

Foo, J.T.S.(ed), 1996, A Guide to Common Vegetables. Singapore Science Foundation. p 127

Food Composition Tables for use in East Asia FAO http://www.fao.org/infoods/directory No. 488

Gardner, S., et al, 2000, A Field Guide to Forest Trees of Northern Thailand, Kobfai Publishing Project. p 101

Full reference list (87 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8d20f21c-1546-44aa-89d2-a41f8dfdba5c

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8d20f21c-1546-44aa-89d2-a41f8dfdba5c