PLANT FACT SHEET

Ochrosia oppositifolia (Lam.) K. Schum.

GENUS *Ochrosia* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Batwood tree, Corkwood tree, Fao, Twin apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit

The very flat seeds are eaten raw or cooked.
CAUTION: The fruit is poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree up to 10 m high. The leaves occur at the ends of twigs. The leaves are clustered 3 or 4 in a circle. They are oval or rounded and narrow towards the base of the leaf. The leaf is dark green and shiny. There are many parallel side veins. The leaves are 12-28 cm long by 6-13 cm wide. The leaf stalk is 3-7 cm long. The tree has lots of milky sap or latex. The flowers are clustered in dense branched arrangements. These are white and 8-15 cm long. The fruit are oval and flattened. They hang in pairs. The nut is oval with two flat seeds inside.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal woodlands. In the Philippines they are found only in Mindanao and Basilan. It occurs in forest along the sea shore. It can grow in salty, sandy and alkaline soils. It grows up to 200 m above sea level. It grows near the shore. The seeds are distributed by sea currents. It grows on sandy soils on atolls and high islands.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds need to be fresh.

NOTES

There are 21 Ochrosia species.
The leaves are burned to ash for fish poison. There are about 20 Neisosperma species of which this is a synonym.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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