PLANT FACT SHEET

Randia calycina Cham.

GENUS *Randia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Fruit have a chocolate or coffee flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 2-4 m tall. It has thorns about 1 cm long. The trunk is grey and branched. It is 6 cm across. The tree loses its leaves. The leaves are opposite and papery. They are oval and 6-11 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The base is wedge shaped and there is a coating on the upper surface. The male flowers are in groups of 4-6 and female flowers as 1 or 2 together. The fruit are oblong and yellow or back when ripe. There is a coffee coloured layer over the flat seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest in the Amazon. It is recorded up to 1,000 m above sea level. It grows in acid soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds germinate after 35-85 days. Plants can be put in a nursery and then transplanted. A spacing of 3-4 m is suitable.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Brazil plants fruit June to July.

REFERENCES

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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