PLANT FACT SHEET

Garcinia morella (Gaertner) Desr.

GENUS *Garcinia* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian gamboge tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit-spice, seeds - oil

The seeds yield a fat used in cooking and for confectionary.
The fruit are eaten as a dessert. They are acidic. The fruit can be preserved by slicing and sun drying. The fruit can also be used for pickles. The unripe fruit can be cooked as a vegetable. The fruit can be boiled to make chutney.
The gum resin can be used in food.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It keeps its leaves during the year. The bark is dark grey. The leaves are narrowly oval and 15 cm long by 7 cm wide. They are wedge shaped or rounded at the base. Male and female flowers are separate. Male flowers occur as 1-3 on old wood and female flowers are in the axils of leaves. The fruit are about 5 cm across. The fruit are yellow when ripe. There are 4 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest. It grows between 5-2,700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India plants fruit in March to April.

NOTES

There are about 300 Garcinia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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