PLANT FACT SHEET

Alibertia edulis (Rich.) A. Rich. ex DC.

GENUS *Alibertia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Sul-sul, Marmelada

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - coffee

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh or used to make jellies and sweets. They are used in drinks.
The roasted seeds are used as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A small, erect tree. It grows 3-5 m tall. The leaves are shiny green and like avocado leaves. They are papery and 8-25 cm long. Plants are separately male and female. The female flowers are white and occur singly at the end of the branches. Male flowers are in round heads. The fruit is green and similar in size and shape to a pomegranate. They are 2-4 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. Its pulp is black. It is 7-8 cm across. The pulp is fleshy and sweet. There are many angular, flattened seeds. These are 0.5 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the hot tropical lowlands. It grows in open places in the Amazon in Brazil. It is common along creeks. In Central America it grows from sea level to 1,000 m altitude. It grows in the dry zone.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. To collect seeds the ripe fruit are harvested and allowed to partly decompose in plastic bags then the seeds are washed out under running water. Seeds need to be planted fresh. Seedlings emerge in 50-60 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow rapidly. Fruit occur during the dry season. A fruit can weigh 40 g.

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