PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus capreifolia Delile

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Riverine sandpaper fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds, Vegetable

The figs are eaten. The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a shrub. It grows up to 4-7 m tall. The bark is pale whitish and smooth. The stems are slender and it has few branches. The branches are often long and whip-like. The leaves are oval and 11 cm long by 4.5 cm wide. They are dark green and have a very rough surface. They resemble sandpaper. The base is narrowly lobed and it tapers to the tip. The edges often have teeth. The fig fruit occur singly and are pear shaped. They are up to 10 cm long. They are grey green and have a rough skin. They are produced on fairly long stalks in the axils of leaves.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow along watercourses in the Savannah. It grows in swamps. It can form tangled thickets along river banks. It grows between 45-1,600 m above sea level. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 910 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The pollinating wasp is Kradibia gestroi afrum (Wiebes).

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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