PLANT FACT SHEET

Landolphia owariensis P. Beauv.

GENUS *Landolphia* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES White rubber vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are used to make a drink. They are very acid. They are also eaten raw. They are used for jams and jellies. The fruit are also eaten including the seeds.

DESCRIPTION

A large woody creeper or liana. It is a climbing plant. It has tendrils. It is very variable. It can grow 20-100 m long. The stem can be 1 m around. Young twigs have rusty hairs. The leaves are thinly leathery. The leaf blade is 8-12 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. It is oblong with a short tip. The base is rounded. It is glossy above and mat underneath. The flowering shoots are at the ends of the branches and they have many flowers. The flowers are white or cream coloured and have a sweet scent. The fruit are the size of an orange. They can be 15 cm across. They have a reddish-brown woody shell. The pulp is acid and sweet. The seeds are 10-18 mm long. The plant varies a lot.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical Africa. It grows in deciduous and evergreen forests. In Nigeria it has been recorded at 1,440 m above sea level. It quickly regenerates and fruits after fires. In Congo it grows from sea level to 1,700 m above sea level. It grows in savannah and woodland near streams.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruiting is seasonal. In Congo the season is July to October. In Central African Republic plants flower in February and fruit in October.

NOTES

It can also be used to extract rubber.

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