PLANT FACT SHEET

Ascarina philippinensis C. B. Rob

GENUS *Ascarina* **FAMILY** Chloranthaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The leaves have been recorded as being eaten cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A forest tree with sweet smelling leaves. It grows 7-24 m high. The trunk is cylinder shape and about 40 cm across. The bark is rough and cracked. The leaves are spaced along the branches in opposite pairs. They have a short leaf stalk. The leaves are broadest near the middle. The leaves are 4-8 cm long by 3-4 cm wide. They are entire and without lobes. The leaves are green but darker above. The flowers are near the ends of the branches. Male and female flowers are separate on separate plants. The flowers are small and female flowers are smaller than male flowers. The fruit are 5-8 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in the forest between 400 and 2800 m altitude. The plant occurs in the Philippines, Borneo and Papua New Guinea.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It grows wild.

NOTES

There are 10-13 Ascarina species. They are from Malaysia to Polynesia and New Zealand. They are tropical or subtropical.

REFERENCES

Powell, J.M., Ethnobotany. In Paijmans, K., 1976, New Guinea Vegetation. Australian National University Press. p 108

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