PLANT FACT SHEET

Bridelia retusa (L.) A. Juss.

GENUS *Bridelia* **FAMILY** Phyllanthaceae

COMMON NAMES Gamble's man, Spinous kino tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They have a salty sour taste.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows to about 6-20 m high. The bark is greyish and has spines when young. The leaves are alternate and 6-15 cm long by 3.5-8 cm wide. They are oval and leathery. They taper to the tip. The base is rounded. There are many side veins. (15-20 pairs). They are parallel and distinct. The leaves are bright green but turn pink before falling. They are slightly hairy underneath. The flowers have short stalks. They are yellowish. They are clustered in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit has a stone inside. It is round and purplish-black when ripe. It is the size of a pea.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows to about 1200 m altitude in Nepal. In India it is common on low hills. It can grow on limestone. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India fruit are available March to September.

NOTES

There are about 60 Bridelia species.

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