PLANT FACT SHEET

Pipturus argenteus (Forst.f.) Wedd.

GENUS *Pipturus* **FAMILY** Urticaceae

COMMON NAMES Native Mulberry, White Nettle

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark, Leaves, Seeds

The bark and leaves are eaten.
The ripe fruit is also recorded as eaten.
The seeds are eaten by children in Tokelau.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree up to 4-8 m tall. It spreads 4-8 m across. Young growth is silvery grey. The bark is grey to brown and has rows of small swellings along it. The leaves are alternate. They are 7-26 cm long by 2-8 cm wide. The leaves are green on top and woolly white underneath. They have fine to coarse teeth along the edges. They have a long stalk and 3 prominent veins. Plants are separately male and female. The flowers are greenish white. They occur in small round clusters. These form spikes about 6 cm long. They grow on older wood. The fruit are fleshy and like a mulberry. They are 0.6 cm across and white. They have many small seeds. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant but can grow in temperate areas. It is damaged by frost. It grows in forests and areas that are not too dry. It occurs from the coast up to at least 1800 m altitude in Papua New Guinea. It is frequent on rocky cliffs near the sea in the Pacific.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It grows wild. Plants can be grown from fresh seed or cuttings of firm semi-hard wood.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

NOTES

There are about (13) 40-50 Pipturus species. They grow in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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