PLANT FACT SHEET

Bruguiera exaristata Ding Hou

GENUS *Bruguiera* **FAMILY** Rhizophoraceae

COMMON NAMES Rib-fruited Orange Mangrove

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten. It needs special preparation.

DESCRIPTION

A small spreading tree. It grows 3-10 m high. It has buttresses at the base and many knee like aerial roots. The bark is dark grey and has a chequered pattern. The leaves grow opposite each other and are crowded towards the ends of branches. They are smooth and thick and leathery. They are oval with a sharply pointed stalk. The leaf blade is 4-10 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. The leaves are dark green and shiny on top and lighter green below. The leaf stalk is about 2 cm long. The leaf scar leaves 3 small distinct U shaped traces on the stem. The flowers are large and orange. They are 2-3.5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They are enclosed in a prominent green ring of sepals. The flowers hang down from the axils of the upper leaves. The fruit is cone shaped and about 1.5 cm long. The seed germinates on the plant. This produces a long narrow hypocotyl 4-9 cm long and 0.6-0.8 cm wide. It has ribs along its length. It is orange brown and with a ring of lobes from the flower at the end. The seed germinates on the bush before the fruit falls.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. They are found along river banks and estuaries. It is more common in areas with a seasonal rainfall and long dry season.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds can be planted directly from the tree. Seedlings transplant easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia plants flower from May to November and fruit June to December.

NOTES

There are 6 Bruguiera species. They grow in tropical mangrove swamps.

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