PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus wassa Roxburgh

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Wasa fig tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

The leaves are eaten cooked.
The fruit are also cooked with the young leaves.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a shrubby tree up to 4 m tall. The bark is grey, flaky and scaly. The young leaf parts have grey hairs underneath them. The leafy twigs are reddish brown. The leaves are produced opposite one another. The leaf is rough to the touch. The edges of the leaves are wavy and slightly toothed. The tip of the leaf is pointed and the base is wedge shaped. There is a gland at the base of the leaf veins. Fruit are produced in clusters on the leafless stems. They are red to purple when ripe.
Ficus copiosa and Ficus wassa are very similar. Ficus wassa is usually smaller and has darker bark. Ficus copiosa has larger more angular leaves and the figs are normally less red and more green and on longer stalks. The fruit of Ficus wassa are smaller and harder.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in areas of re-growth. In Papua New Guinea it grows in lowland areas and up to 1,300 m altitude or higher. In PNG it has been recorded to 2,500 m. In Solomon Islands it grows up to 1,400 m altitude. In Vanuatu it grows up to 800 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

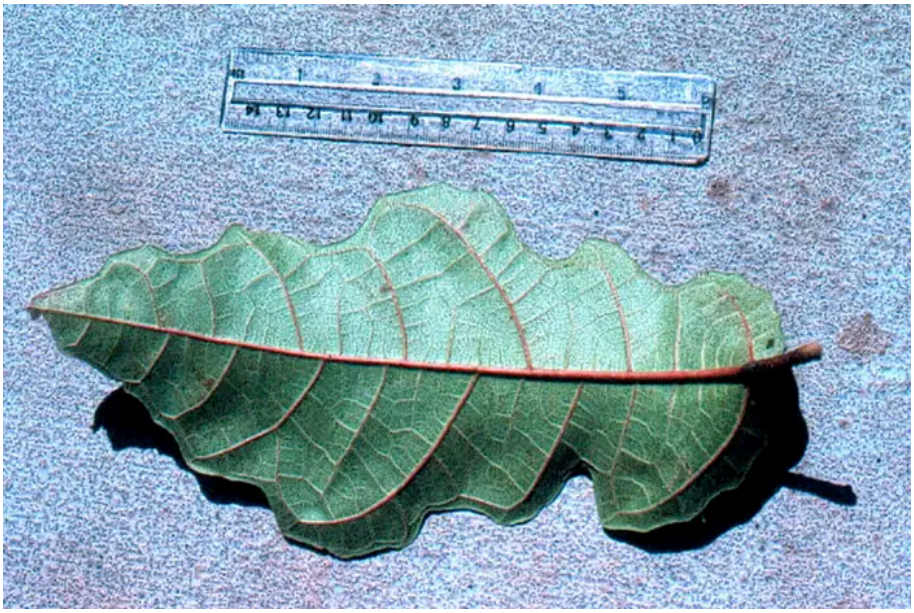
Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America. The leaves stimulate milk production.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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