PLANT FACT SHEET

Cinchona officinalis L.

GENUS *Cinchona* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Quinine, Cinchona bark

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Spice

It is added to give a bitter flavour to "gin and tonic".

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. The leaves are narrowly oval and 10 cm long by 4 cm wide. There can be short hairs on the veins underneath. The flowers are in groups at the ends of the branches. There are many flowers. The fruit is an oblong capsule 2 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In South America it grows between 1,600-2,700 m above sea level. It grows in wet mountain forests. In XTBG Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 40 Cinchona species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 124

Brown, D., 2002, The Royal Horticultural Society encyclopedia of Herbs and their uses. DK Books. p 169

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 545

Harten, van, A.M., 1979, Quinine, in Simmonds, N.W., (ed), Crop Plant Evolution. Longmans. London. p 255 (As Cinchona spp.)

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2018, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. p 280

Kew Plants of the World Online

Purseglove, J.W., 1968, Tropical Crops Dicotyledons, Longmans. p 453 (As Cinchona spp.)

PROSEA handbook Volume 13 Spices. p 275

Seidemann J., 2005, World Spice Plants. Economic Usage, Botany, Taxonomy. Springer. p 98 (Synonyms confused)

Sp. pl. 1:172. 1753

Torre, de la, L., et al, 2008, Enciclopedia de las Plantas Útiles del Ecuador. Herbario QCA. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. p 541

Williams, C.N., Chew, W.Y., and Rajartnam, J.A., 1989, Tree and Field Crops of the Wetter Regions of the Tropics. Longman, p 78 (As Cinchona spp.)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c0c6e24a-ced7-4d7c-893a-f6a34e2f757b