PLANT FACT SHEET

Canarium kaniense Lauterbach

GENUS *Canarium* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Piu, Usasi

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts

The oily seeds are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree up to 40 m high and sometimes with buttresses. The small branches are 0.5-1 cm thick. They do not have hairs. The branches have one or two round cylinders of vascular strands when cut cross ways. (Like in a root). The leafy stalk (stipule) at the base of the leaf is oval and 1-3 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. The edges of this are deeply toothed and can be almost like a fringe. The leaf can have 3-5 or 6 leaflets. They do not have hairs. The leaflets are oval and 8-12 cm long by 3.5-7 cm wide. They can be papery or slightly leathery. The base of the leaflet is slightly slanting. The leaflets do not have teeth around the edge. The top of the leaf ends fairly abruptly. There are 9-15 pairs of side veins. These are slightly curved and at an angle. The flowers are near the ends of the branches. The flower clusters can be 30 cm long. They are densely covered with fine hairs. There are 5-6 fruit on a stalk. Individual fruit have very short stalks. Fruit are 5-6 cm long and 3-4 cm across. They are triangular in cross section. Normally there is only one seed inside with the other cells empty.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs mostly on the mainland and only in PNG. Plants are mostly between 1,000 and 2,000 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants normally are self sown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit/nut production is seasonal. Flowering is in December and fruiting from January to March.

NOTES

There are 80-95 Canarium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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www.pngplants.org

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c372e68a-b9ae-4ac4-9915-cac5a89f22f0