PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Ormocarpum cochinchinense* (Lour.) Merr.

**GENUS** *Ormocarpum* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Kalava

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves

The young leaf tips are used cooked as a vegetable.

## DESCRIPTION

A small leguminous shrub or tree up to 7.5 m tall with light brown bark which strips off showing a greener bark underneath. The leafy shoots are hairy. When the plant flowers it has a flower like a bean and a pale yellowish green in colour with reddish veins. It produces a pod which is up to 9 cm long and jointed in a chain of 2 to 8 seeds. The seeds are small 5 mm and bean shaped. Flowers and pods are rare. It is a legume.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows along the beach and in mud flats. It also comes up in old gardens. It mostly occurs naturally below about 30 m altitude. It is planted in gardens up to 500 m altitude.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

In gardening situations it is normally grown from cuttings.

## NOTES

There are 20 Ormocarpum species.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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## REFERENCES


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



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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c4b2e7e8-bbd9-4815-bbbf-48e7366cd841