PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus ingens (Miq.) Miq.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Red-leaved rock fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Vegetable

The figs are eaten raw.
The young leaves are cooked as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a small tree which loses its leaves. It is an erect tree and has a spreading crown. It grows up to 15 m tall. The branches touch the ground. It grows attached to other plants. The leaves are oval. They are 6-15 cm long by 3-10 cm wide. They are pale green and thinly textured. The new leaves are red. The base is slightly lobed and it tapers towards the tip. The fig fruit grow in the axils of the leaves. The fruit are round and 1-1.5 cm across. They are pale yellow or pink when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They usually grow on dry rocky soils. It is often on rocky slopes in cracks in the rocks. In Zimbabwe they grow between 300 and 1450 m altitude but are mostly at lower altitudes. They grow where the rainfall is below 100 mm. It can grow with annual rainfall between 100-1,300 mm. It is drought resistant. It grows between sea level and 2,100 m above sea level. It grows in the Sahel.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. Fruit should be collected before they drop and the seeds removed. The seeds are small and need to be sown with fine sand. Seeds germinate in 15-30 days. Cuttings can be of softwood or hardwood. They root easily.
The wasp pollinator is Platyscapa soraria Wiebes.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young seedlings grow slowly.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

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