PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus platypoda (Miq.) Cunn. ex Miq.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Rock fig, Common Rock fig, Desert fig, Port Jackson fig, Rusty fig, Small-leaved Moreton Bay Fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten. They can be eaten raw or mashed or cooked and eaten. They are also used for jam.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a small tree. It grows to 6-30 m high. It spreads out and has aerial and clinging roots. The leaves are thick and leathery. They are broadly oval. The blade is 6-10 cm long by 1-7 cm wide. The midrib and veins are distinct. The tip is pointed. The flowers are very small. Both male and female flowers are enclosed in a fleshy receptacle (the fig). The fruit is 0.8-1.4 cm across. It becomes red to purple when ripe. They are commonly in pairs in the axils of leaves.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows on low rocky coastal cliffs. It is hardy and tolerant to cold. It grows on dry hills. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 10-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can also be grown from aerial layers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit cn be picked off the tree or harvested from the ground.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



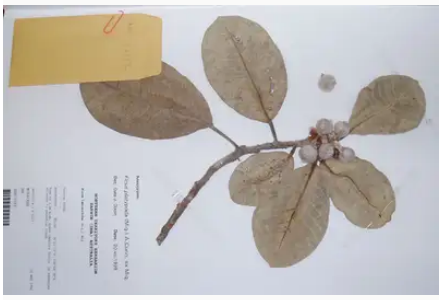
Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3:287. 1867-1868 ("1867")

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 186

Bindon, P., 1996, Useful Bush Plants. Western Australian Museum. p 143

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 473

Bonney, N., 1997, Economic Native Trees and Shrubs for South Australia. Greening Australia (SA) inc. Campbelltown SA 5074 p 168

Bonney, N., 2012, Edible Wild Native Plants for Southern Australia. p 110

Brock, J., 1993, Native Plants of Northern Australia, Reed. p 188

Cancilla, D., 2018, Ethnobotanical and Ethnozoological Values Desktop Assessment - Eliwana Project. p 13

Cane, S., 1987, Australian Subsistence in the Western Desert. Human Ecology 15(4): pp 391-434

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 162, 189

Crawford, I. M., 1982, Traditional Aboriginal Plant Resources in the Kalumburu Area: Aspects in Ethno-economics. Records of the Western Australian Museum Supplement No. 15

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1992, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 4. Lothian. p 289

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 328

Flora of Australia, Volume 3, Hamamelidales to Casuarinales, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra (1989) p 45

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 102

Hiddins, L., 1999, Explore Wild Australia with the Bush Tucker Man. Penguin Books/ABC Books. p 155

Isaacs, J., 1987, Bush Food, Aboriginal Food and Herbal Medicine. Weldons. p 71

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 219

Kenneally, K.E., Edinger, D. C., and Willing T., 1996, Broome and Beyond, Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management. p 139

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 319

Latz, P.K., 1996, Bushfires and Bushtucker: Aboriginal plant use in Central Australia. IAD Press Alice Springs p 196

Latz, P & Wightman, G., 1995, Desert Bush Tucker Identikit. Common Native Food Plants of Central Australia. Parks & Wild Commission Northern territory. p 30

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 114

Levitt, D., 1981, Plants and people. Aboriginal uses of plants on Groote Eylandt. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra. p 104 (var. cordata)

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 16

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 175

Low, T., 1992, Bush Tucker. Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus & Robertson. p 15, 65, 67

Miller, J. B., James, K. W. and Maggiore, P.M.A., 1993, Tables of Composition of Australian Aboriginal Foods. Aboriginal Studies Press. Canberra

Morley, B.D., & Toelken, H.R., (Eds), 1983, Flowering Plants in Australia. Rigby. p 63

O'Connell, J.F., et al, 1983, Traditional and Modern Plant Use Among the Alyawara of Central Australia. Economic Botany. Vol. 37 p 103

Paczkowska, G . & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Calatogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 331

Petheram, R.J. and Kok, B., 2003, Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWA Press p 473

Rogers, A., 2007, Karrwa Plants and their Uses. draft. p 3

Salem, L., Thompson, E., and Elvin, H. L., Bush Tucker in Kidney Failure and Diabetes. AMGEN

Smith, K & I., 1999, Grow your own bushfoods. New Holland. Australia. p 32

Smith, N. M., 1991, Ethnobotanical Field Notes from the Northern Territory, Australia, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 14(1): 1-65

Smith, N., 1993, Bushfoods - an Annotated List: Fruit and Seeds Eaten by Aboriginal People in Northern Australia. Winnellie, NorthernTerritory. The Archives of the Rare Fruit Council of Australia.

Smith, Nicholas et al. 1993, Ngarinyman Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from the Victoria River Area Northern Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 16. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p 26.

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 410

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 214

Urban, A., 1990, Wildflowers of Inland Australia. Portside editions. p 19

Vigilante, T., et al, 2013, Island country: Aboriginal connections, values and knowledge of the Western Kimberley islands in the context of an island biological survey. Records of the Western Australian Museum Supplement 81: 145-182

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 82

Full reference list (2 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c67c4712-3266-43b7-979c-22f788b4fac3

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/c67c4712-3266-43b7-979c-22f788b4fac3