PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Semecarpus vitiensis (A. Gray) Engl.

GENUS *Semecarpus* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Itchwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts

The kernel is boiled and eaten.
Caution: The sap can blister the skin.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 30 m high. The bark is brown with light brown patches where flakes have been shed. The leaves are large and oblong. The flowers are white. The fruit is small and corky with a fleshy base. It has an irritating milky sap.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow in dense forests from sea level to 900 m above sea level. It suits the wet tropics.

REFERENCES

Franklin, J., Keppel, G., & Whistler, W., 2008, The vegetation and flora of Lakeba, Nayau and Aiwa Islands, Central Lau Group, Fiji. Micronesica 40(1/2): 169–225, 2008

GTZ 1996, A Guide to some Indigenous Fijian Trees. GTZ Suva. p 95

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 448 (As Oncocarpus vitiensis ?)

Pramono, S., Gleye, J., Debray, M., Stanislas, E., 1981 ,Flavonoides de Semecarpus vitiensis. Plantes medicinales et phytotherapie. Plant Med Phytother Oct 1981. v. 15 (4) p. 224-229.

Seemann, B., 1873, Flora Vitiensis. (As Oncocarpus vitiensis)

Thaman, R. and W. Clarke, Paper on Agroforestry on Aneityum and Tanna, Vanuatu from Internet

Wickens, G.E., 1995, Edible Nuts. FAO Non-wood forest products. FAO, Rome. p 108

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/cb5dff0d-8e6e-4ab3-ab55-44b1f66d5d7c