PLANT FACT SHEET

Morus australis Poir.

GENUS *Morus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Korean mulberry, Small-leaved mulberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers

The ripe fruit are eaten fresh. They are also used for wine.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 3-6 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is greyish brown. The winter buds are large. In cultivation plants are 1-2 m high. The leaves have stalks. The stalks are 1-1.5 cm long. The leaves are oval to sword shaped. They taper to the tip. They are 5-14 cm long by 3.5-12 cm wide. They have 3-5 lobes. There are teeth around the edge. Flowers are of one sex. They are yellow. The fruit are red but turn almost black near maturity. They are about 1 cm across. Some varieties are described which vary on the shape of the leaves.

Probably now Broussonetia papyrifera (L.) L'Her. ex Vent

HABITAT

It is native to temperate SE Asia. In Nepal plants grow between 900-2400 m altitude. In China it grows in limestone areas and near the edges of forests on mountain slopes between 500-2000 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 6-9. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or root offshoots. The can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In NE India fruit are available January and February.

NOTES

There are about 16 Morus species.

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

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