PLANT FACT SHEET

Salacia elliptica (Mart. ex Schult.) G. Don

GENUS *Salacia* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES Elliptic salacia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 8-10 m high. The trunk is 40-50 cm across. It is short and crooked. The crown is dense and low. The leaves are opposite. They are 10-12 cm long by 6-8 cm wide. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. There are 9-12 flowers in a group. They are white. The fruit is almost round and 3-4 cm across. There are 3-6 oval seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in northeastern Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants are grown by seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and allowed to soften in a plastic bag then the seeds removed in running water. The seeds germinate in 50-60 days.

NOTES

There are about 25 Salacia species in tropical America. They are also put in the family Hippocrataceae.

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NYBG Herbarium "edible" (As Rheedia rogaguensis)

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