PLANT FACT SHEET

Vitellariopsis ferruginea Kupicha

GENUS *Vitellariopsis* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Gourd milkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw as dessert fruit.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows to 8 m high. The bark is grey and smooth. The leaves are clustered near the ends of branches. The leaves are oval and 4.5-7 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are leathery. The young branches and leaves are covered with dark red hairs. The upper surface of mature leaves does not have hairs. The flowers are white or tinged with pink. They are about 1.5 cm across. They are on slender stalks 2 cm long. They occur in groups of 2-4 in the axils of leaves. The fruit are mainly oval but with the end drawn out and curved. They look like small gourds. They are about 3.5 cm long and 1.7 cm wide. They are covered with reddish-brown hairs. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on rocky hills and in wooded ravines. It can grow in arid places.

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