PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus tinctoria Forster f.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Dye fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The young tips are picked and eaten.
The fruit are eaten cooked. They are often cooked in coconut milk. They can be dried and crushed and made into a puree by sweetening with coconut toddy.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a small tree or shrub 2-4 m high. It can climb and scramble over other plants and be up to 10 m high. The small branches are rough. The small branchlets are yellow or pale brown. The bark is grey or brown and cracked or flaky. The leafy structure at the base of the leaves is sword shaped and 5-10 mm long and thick. The leaves of the tree are yellowish with purple veins and short leaf stalks. The leaves are 4-13 cm long and 2-6 cm wide. The leaf stalk is 0.6-1 cm long. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. The figs are in the leaf axils and up to 2 cm across and orange coloured. There are some varieties described based on the size of the plant and the size of the figs.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Trees are common on limestone or coral rocks near the sea shore. It tends to be on coral soils. In the Pacific it grows from sea level to 750 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It normally grows wild. It grows from seed. It can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, fruit are produced in May to July.

NOTES

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

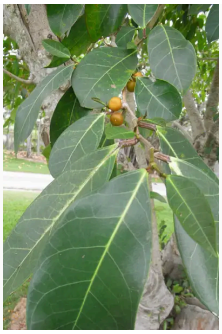
PICTURES



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