PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Micromelum minutum* (G. Forster) Wight & Arn.

**GENUS** *Micromelum* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Lime berry

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Stem, Fruit, Flower

The young shoots and leaves are eaten uncooked or blanched. They are also used as a spice.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4-6 m high and spreads 2-4 m wide. The small branches have a dense hairy covering. The leaves are divided into leaflets with a leaflet at the end of the stalk. Leaves are 16-49 cm long. There are 7-15 leaflets. They are oblong and uneven at the base. The edges of the leaves are wavy or with rounded teeth. The leaflets are 2-12 cm long by 1.5-7 cm wide. There are a few hairs on the upper surface and densely hairy along the veins on the underneath surface. The flowers are on the ends of branches. They are 3-5 cm long. The flowers are woolly. The petals are 4 mm long and white. They have a bad smell. The fruit is a berry. It is oval and 6-8 mm long and red.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mixed deciduous or evergreen forests by streams. It needs good drainage. In Samoa it grows from sea level to 300 m altitude and to 900 m altitude in Fiji. In Townsville palmetum.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed. It can also be grown from cuttings.

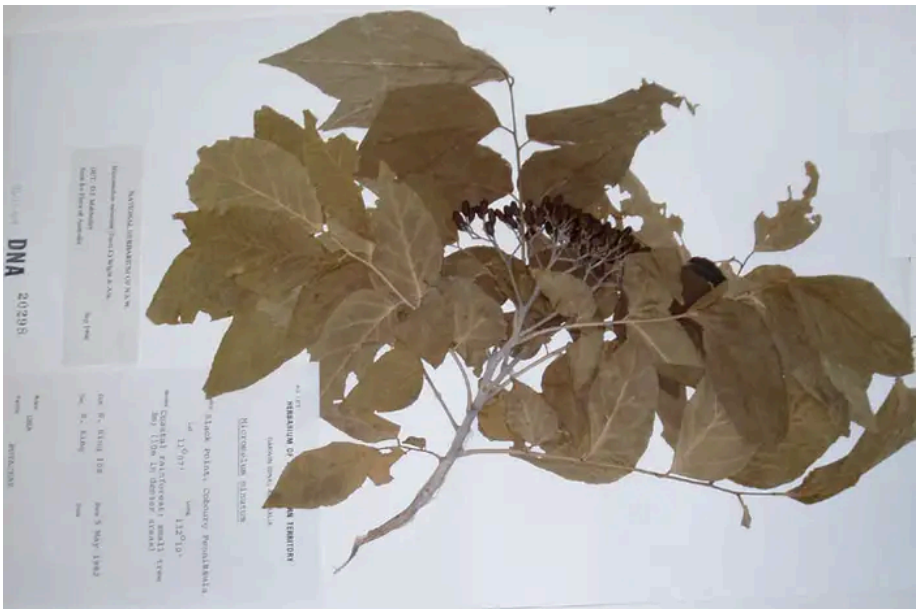
### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is relatively slow growing.

## NOTES

There are about 10 Micromelum species. They grow in Asia and the Pacific. It is used in medicine. It has established anti-cancer properties.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

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

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