PLANT FACT SHEET

Terminalia microcarpa Decne.

GENUS *Terminalia* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES The Philippine star tree, Damson plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: seeds, Fruit, Nuts

The fruit are eaten raw when ripe or made into jam. There is little flesh but it is very sweet. They are also boiled and cooked with sugar.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 12-30 m high. The trunk can be 1 m across. The branches spread widely. It can have buttresses 4 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are bunched near the ends of the twigs. The leaves are smooth and pointed at both ends. They are 6-15 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. The flowers are yellowish white, on slender flower stalks which grow from the axils of leaves. The fruit are about 3 cm across, smooth, dark red and fleshy.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in monsoon vine forests. Very common and widely distributed in the forests throughout the islands of the Philippines. It grows up to 1,350 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds or grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit are generally collected from the ground.

NOTES

There are about 200-250 Terminalia species. They are tropical.
There are 3 Terminalia microcarpa species with different authorities and unresolved.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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

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