PLANT FACT SHEET

Leea rubra Blume ex Sprengel

GENUS *Leea* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

COMMON NAMES Red Hawaiian holly, Red tree-vine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten. They are soaked in water and the husk removed. The seeds are pounded with treacle then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub which keeps growing from year to year. It is 1-3 m high. The stems are somewhat woody. The leaves are large and dark-green. The leaves are compound and twice divided. The whole leaf is 40 cm long. This is divided into 2-3 segments which is then divided into 2-3 leaflets. A leaflet may be 6.5-20 cm long by 3.5-7 cm wide. There are teeth around the edge. Flowers are small and deep pink or red. They are 0.3-0.5 cm across. Many flowers occur together on large flower arrangements up to 15 cm across. The fruit are flattened lobed berries. They are 0.6-0.8 cm across. They are bright red and turn black when ripe. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow naturally in coastal monsoon vine-forests. It grows in low, wet areas of mixed deciduous forest in Thailand. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grow from fresh seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

It is native to Thailand. Also put in the family Leeaceae. Leeaceae occur in the tropics. There are about 70 Leea species.

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)

REFERENCES

Bijdr. 197. 1825

Brock, J., 1993, Native Plants of Northern Australia, Reed. p 236

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1349

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 200

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 268

Delang, C. O., 2007, Ecological Succession of Usable Plants in an Eleven-Year Fallow Cycle in North Lao P.D.R., Ethnobotany Research and Applications. Vol. 5:331-350

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1993, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 6. Lothian. p 79 (Photo)

Engel, D.H., & Phummai, S., 2000, A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia. Timber Press. p 130

Garde, M., et al, 2003, A Preliminary List of Kundedjnjenghmi Plant Names. Northern Land Council. (Arnhem Land, Australia)

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 180

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 227

Kachenchart, B., et al, 2008, Phenology of Edible Plants at Sakaerat Forest. In Proceedings of the FORTROP II: Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World. Bangkok, Thailand.

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 245

McMakin, P.D., 2000, Flowering Plants of Thailand. A Field Guide. White Lotus. p 51

Morley, B.D., & Toelken, H.R., (Eds), 1983, Flowering Plants in Australia. Rigby. p 229

Smith, N. M., 1991, Ethnobotanical Field Notes from the Northern Territory, Australia, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 14(1): 1-65

Smith, N., 1993, Bushfoods - an Annotated List: Fruit and Seeds Eaten by Aboriginal People in Northern Australia. Winnellie, NorthernTerritory. The Archives of the Rare Fruit Council of Australia.

Suwardi, A. B., et al, 2020, Ethnobotany and conservation of indigenous edible fruit plants in South Aceh, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 21, No. 5, pp 1850-1860

Suwardi, A.B., et al, 2023, The diversity and regional conservation status of wild edible fruit species in Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 24 No. 6. pp 3245-3257

territorynativeplants.com.au

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 275

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e432b37d-a5ab-48d1-af4c-9424c1df47ea