PLANT FACT SHEET

Aceratium oppositifolium D.C.

GENUS *Aceratium* **FAMILY** Elaeocarpaceae

COMMON NAMES Belimbing hutan, Kariala

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Vegetable

The fruit is eaten. It is acid so is used for jellies or pickles.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree 3-6 m tall but it can grow up to 15 m tall. The tree is very variable in form. It has branches which are slender, long and brown. Young branches have hairs. Leaves are simple and produced opposite one another. The leaves are sword shape but slightly curved in the middle and tapering to the tip. It has a sharp tip. The edges of the leaves are wavy. The leaves have a toothed edge and are green and shiny above but with a bluish green covering underneath. The leaf blade is 6 cm long by 2.5 cm wide. The leaf stalk is 4 mm long. Flowers are yellow. Fruit are bright red, fleshy and juicy. The fruit is 3-5 angled, one seeded and about 3 cm long by 2 cm wide. The fruit stalk is 1 cm long. The seed is 3 sided.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It thrives in shady places. It grows from sea level up to 300-800 m in the tropics. It is common on wet soils. It occurs in mountain forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed.

NOTES

There are 20 Aceratium species. In some places the fruit of this one is very sour and inedible.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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