PLANT FACT SHEET

Erythrina subumbrans (Hassk.) Merrill

GENUS *Erythrina* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES December tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers

The very young leaves are steamed and then eaten in salads.
The flowers are used as a potherb.

DESCRIPTION

A tall tree. It grows to 15-23 m high. Some kinds have prickles and some do not. The leaves are alternate and have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are smooth. The side 2 leaflets are round and 10-20 cm long. The end leaflet is larger. The flowering groups are 22 cm long. The flowers are red. The fruit are pods 10-14 cm long and 2-2.5 cm wide. They contain 1-5 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs light. It grows in dry open forest. It is used as shade for cacao and coffee. In Samoa it grows from sea level to 700 m altitude. In Indonesia it grows between 300-1,500 m above sea level. In southern China it grows between 300-600 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

NOTES

2n = 42 There are 108 Erythrina species.

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 204

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 962

Cao, Y., et al, 2020, Ethnobotanical study on wild edible plants used by three trans-boundary ethnic groups in Jiangcheng County, Pu'er, Southwest China. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2020) 16:66

Elevitch, C.R.(ed.), 2006, Traditional Trees of the Pacific Islands: Their Culture, Environment and Use. Permanent Agriculture Resources, Holualoa, Hawaii. p 331

Gardner, S., et al, 2000, A Field Guide to Forest Trees of Northern Thailand, Kobfai Publishing Project. p 176

Hariyadi, B., 2008, The Entwined Tree: Traditional Natural Resource Management of Serampas, Jambi, Indonesia. Ph. D thesis. Univ. or Hawaii. p 402

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.

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 199

Ochse, J.J. et al, 1931, Vegetables of the Dutch East Indies. Asher reprint. p 385

Pham-Hoang Ho, 1999, An Illustrated Flora of Vietnam. Nha Xuat Ban Tre. p 939

Philipp. J. Sci., C 5:113. 1910

PROSEA (Plant Resources of South East Asia) handbook, Volume 11, 1997, Auxilliary plants

Schmidt-Vogt, D., 2001, Secondary Forests in Swidden Agriculture in the Highland of Thailand. Journal of tropical Forest Science 13(4): 748-767

Smith, A.C., 1985, Flora Vitiensis Nova, Lawaii, Kuai, Hawaii, Volume 3 p 185

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 264

Sutjaritjai, N., et al, 2019, Traditional Uses of Leguminosae among the Karen in Thailand. Plants 2019, 8, 600 p 7

Terra, G.J.A., 1973, Tropical Vegetables. Communication 54e Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, p 45

Whistler, W.A., 2004, Rainforest Trees of Samoa. Isle Botanica Honolulu, Hawaii. p 70

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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/e7774c14-084c-4de5-bf8f-3ca5ea4e3c15