PLANT FACT SHEET

Voacanga africana Stapf ex Scott Elliot

GENUS *Voacanga* **FAMILY** Apocynaceae

COMMON NAMES Small-fruit wild frangipani

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Branch - spice

The fruit are used in medicine but also eaten in Senegal.
The branch is burnt for a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4-10 m tall. The trunk can be 2-30 cm across. The bark is smooth and pale grey. The leaf blade is pale green. The leaves vary in shape. There are many flowers in a loose group 4-16 cm long. The flowers have a bad smell. The fruit has 2 sections but only one develops. They are dark with pale green spots. They are 3-8 cm long by 3-8 cm wide and 3-7 cm thick. There are many dark brown seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows along river banks. It grows in open woodland and light forest. In southern Africa it grows from sea level to 1,000 m altitude. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. The ripe fruit are opened to release the seeds into water and then the seeds are dried. They can be stored for 12 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Central African Republic in flowers in March.

NOTES

There are 12 Voacanga species. The seeds are used in medicine.

REFERENCES

Djihounouck, Y., et al, 2018, Diversité Et Importance Socio-Economique Des Espèces Fruitières Sauvages Comestibles En Zone Kasa (Sud-Ouest Du Sénégal). European Scientific Journal December 2018 edition Vol.14, No.36 ISSN: 1857 – 7881

Djihounouck, Y., et al, 2021, Ethnobotanical Uses of Non-cultivated Edible Fruit Species in the Department of Oussouye (South Senegal). Journal of Food Research; Vol. 10, No. 4 p 20

Flora Zambesiaca. http://apps.kew.org/efloras

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 11

Hahn, K., et al, 2018, The use of wild plants for food: a national scale analysis for Burkina Faso (West Africa). FVSS FoodPlants Supplement

Harris, D. J., 2002, The vascular plants of the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, Central African Republic. National Botanic Garden of Belgium, 2002. – 274 pages p 55

Latham, P., 2004, Useful Plants of Bas-Congo province. Salvation Army & DFID p 293

Maroyi, A., 2006. Voacanga africana Stapf. [Internet] Record from Protabase. Schmelzer, G.H. & Gurib-Fakim, A. (Editors). PROTA (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa), Wageningen, Netherlands. < http://database.prota.org/search.htm>. Accessed 23 October 2009

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 150

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/e805e36b-c94a-4d70-958f-fac6620d3cc5