PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Antiaris toxicaria Leschenault

GENUS *Antiaris* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES False iroko, Ako, Sackingtree, Upastree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten.
Caution: The latex contains chemicals that affect the heart and can be very poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 30-45 m high. The trunk is straight and normally only has branches above 25 m high. The trunk can be 180 cm across. There are buttresses 3 m high. The leaves are alternate and simple. The leaves are 6-20 cm long by 3-12 cm wide. There are 1-8 flowers in a group in the axils of leaves. The male and female flowers are separate. The fruit is oval and fleshy. The fruit stalk is large and fleshy. They are 1-1.5 cm long and have 1 seed. The seeds are 7-9 mm long. There are 5 subspecies.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In West Africa it grows from sea level to 1,800 m altitude. In southern China it grows up to 1,500 m above sea level. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants grow from fresh seeds. They grow easily and germinate in 3-13 weeks. Seeds do not store easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are fast growing. They reach full size in 20 years.

NOTES

There is only one single variable Antiaris species. There are 5 subspecies.
Fruit are larger in African plants.

PICTURES

Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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