PLANT FACT SHEET

Burckella fijiensis (Hemsley) A. C. Smith & S. Darwin

GENUS *Burckella* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Tortoise pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw or roasted.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 10-20 m high. The trunk is straight. The crown is dense. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are broadly sword shaped and 14-25 cm long by 6-10 cm wide. They taper to the base and have a rounded tip. There are 9-13 pairs of leaf veins. The flowers are in a bunch at the ends of branches. There are 20-30 flowers in the group. The fruit are brown when ripe. They are 8 cm long by 6 cm wide and pear shaped. They have a thick stalk 3 cm long. There are 1 or 2 large seeds. These are 6 cm long by 5 cm wide and 3 cm deep and flattened. The fruit vary in size and taste.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Futuna it grows from sea level to 200 m altitude. It can grow up to 800 m. It can tolerate shade or sun.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from ripe seeds or cuttings. Cuttings are difficult to establish.

REFERENCES

Blench, R., 2004, Fruits and Arboriculture in the Indo-Pacific Region. Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Bulletin 24. (Taipei Papers Volume 2) p 35

Walter, A. & Sam C., 2002, Fruits of Oceania. ACIAR Monograph No. 85. Canberra. p 120, 278

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