PLANT FACT SHEET

Pemphis acidula J.R. & G. Forst.

GENUS *Pemphis* **FAMILY** Lythraceae

COMMON NAMES Pemphis, Digging Stick Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Sap, Fruit

The fruit are sometimes eaten in Kiribati.
The leaves are acid and eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can grow to 2-10 m high and spread 1.5-6 m wide. The trunk is gnarled and grey. Young growth has grey silky hairs. The bark is brown and flaky. The small branches are angular. The leaves are small, fleshy and oval. They are 1.3-2.5 cm long by 0.3-0.7 cm wide. They are opposite and grey-green. The flowers are small and white. They have 6 papery petals. The flower is almost enclosed in a reddish ring of the outer sepals. The fruit is a capsule 0.7 cm across. It is red.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on coastal limestone rocks and on atolls. It is common on the inner margins of mangroves. It occurs on Pacific atolls.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There is only one (2) Pemphis species.

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