PLANT FACT SHEET

Mesua ferrea Linn.

GENUS *Mesua* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian rose chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit, Leaves

The young leaves can be eaten raw.
The oily seeds need to be well cooked and then are eaten.
The fruit is used as an addition to some dishes.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 18-30 m tall. It spreads 6 m wide. It often has buttresses. The bark is grey but turns brown and peels off in white flakes. The leaves are simple and deep green. They are sword shaped and 15 cm long. They are leathery. The leaves have a waxy coating underneath. New leaves are red. The flowers are white and have a scent. They have 4 petals and many yellow stamen. The fruit is fleshy with a stone inside. The fruit are 5 cm across. They have a woody rind. The stigma remains at the tip and the calyxes at the base. The fruit have 4 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to Asia. It grows between 500-600 m altitude in China. In India it grows from 60-1200 m altitude. It grows in evergreen humid forest. It can grow in bright shade or full sun. It does best in rich, slightly acid soil. In XTBG Yunnan. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from fresh seed or cuttings using mist. Half hardened cuttings should be used. Fresh seed germinate in about 10-14 days. Seed are best to be soaked before sowing. Seedlings can be transplanted when 2-3 years old.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

The seeds yield an inedible oil used in industry. There are about 3-5 Mesua species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 368

Angami, A., et al, 2006, Status and potential of wild edible plants of Arunachal Pradesh. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge 5(4) October 2006, pp 541-550

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 273

Bremness, L., 1994, Herbs. Collins Eyewitness Handbooks. Harper Collins. p 65

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1482

Conn, B.J., (Ed.) 1995, Handbooks of the Flora of Papua New Guinea. Vol 3. Melbourne University Press. p 126

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 891

Dey, A. & Mukhererjee, A., 2015, Living and Survival Amidst Hunger: Wild Edible Botanicals as a Prime Forest Productivity in the Rural Purulia District, West Bengal, India from Colonial to Present. Research Journal of Forestry 9(3): 71-86

Engel, D.H., & Phummai, S., 2000, A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia. Timber Press. p 49

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 477

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 79

Flora of China. Vol. 13 p 38

Gardner, S., et al, 2000, A Field Guide to Forest Trees of Northern Thailand, Kobfai Publishing Project. p 52

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 413

Krishen P., 2006, Trees of Delhi, A Field Guide. DK Books. p 176

Li Xi-wen & Li Jie; Peter F. Stevens, Clusiaceae [Draft], Flora of China

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 173

Martin, M.A., 1971, Introduction L'Ethnobotanique du Cambodge. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Paris.

Menninger, E.A., 1977, Edible Nuts of the World. Horticultural Books. Florida p 47

Sahni, K.C., 2000, The Book of Indian Trees. Bombay Natural History Society. Oxford. p 27

Singh, H.B., Arora R.K.,1978, Wild edible Plants of India. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. p 66

Singh, V. B., et al, (Ed.) Horticulture for Sustainable Income and Environmental Protection. Vol. 1 p 217

Smith, A.C., 1981, Flora Vitiensis Nova, Lawaii, Kuai, Hawaii, Volume 2 p 339

Sp. pl. 1:515. 1753

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 395

Swaminathan, M.S., and Kochnar, S.L., 2007, An Atlas of major Flowering Trees in India. Macmillan. p 297

Tanaka,

Van Sam, H. et al, 2004, Trees of Laos and Vietnam: A Field Guide to 100 Economically or Ecologically Important Species. Blumea 29 (2004) 201-349

Wickens, G.E., 1995, Edible Nuts. FAO Non-wood forest products. FAO, Rome. p 132

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

Yesodharan, K. & Sujana, K. A., 2007, Wild edible plants traditionally used by the tribes in the Parambokulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, India. Natural Product Radiance 6(1) pp 74-80

Zeven, A. C. & de West, J. M. J., 1982, Dictionary of cultivated plants and their regions of diversity. Wageningen. p 75

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/ee9961b3-5d6d-443e-a56e-42a96328109d