PLANT FACT SHEET

Scolopia spinosa (Roxb.) Warb.

GENUS *Scolopia* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES White rukem tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows to 10-15 m high. Occasionally it grows to 27 m high or can be a shrub 6 m tall. The trunk becomes grey, smooth and unarmed but young plants have branched spines. The leaves are broadly wedge shaped. They are rose-red coloured when young. They are 8-18 cm long by 3.5-8 cm wide. They have slight indentations around the edge. The flower cluster is 2-5 cm long with white flowers. The fruit is a berry 1.5-2.5 cm long with a small tip at the end. The fruit is green or purple. It contains 6 or up to 20 bitter seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in secondary rainforest often on limestone soils. It occurs up to 1,100 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Flowers are produced throughout the year.

NOTES

Also put in the Flacourtiaceae family.

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