PLANT FACT SHEET

Vitex megapotamica (Spreng.) Moldenke

GENUS *Vitex* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Taruma

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stem

The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. A tree that loses its leaves. It grows 5-20 m high. The trunk is 40-60 cm across. The leaves have long leaf stalks. The leaves are compound and have 3-7 leaflets. They are 5-9 cm long. The flowers are in groups in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. They are bluish. The fruit is round and shiny purple. Fruit are about 2 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in pine forests and semi-deciduous forests. It can grow in dry and wet soils. It needs a sunny position. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. It grows in the Parana River basin in Brazil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and sieved in running water and dried in the sun. Seeds germinate in 40-60 days. Seedlings can be transplanted into the field in 7 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young trees grow quickly.

NOTES

Also put in the family Verbenaceae.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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