PLANT FACT SHEET

Guettarda uruguensis Cham. & Schlecht.

GENUS *Guettarda* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Velvet seed

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit can be eaten fresh. It is best to rub them to removed hairs.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-5 m tall. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are oval and have fine hairs. The flowers are in groups in the axils of leaves. They are white to red and have a scent. They are tube shaped. The fruit is oval and fleshy. They are velvety and balck when ripe. They can be 1 cmlong.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in humid areas near rivers and streams. In Brazil it grows from sea level to 1,650 m above sea level. It is best in a deep moist soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. They are best put in a nursery and transplanted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The seedlings reach 30-40 cm in 6-8 months after germination. They fruit 3-2 years after planting.

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