PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus cordata Thunb.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Namaqua fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

People eat the fruit occasionally.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a tree which grows pressed against rocks. It can grow to 18 m high although it is usually much smaller. It can spread 15 m wide. The trunk is slender and smooth. The leaves are smooth and 11 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are oblong with a rounded base which can be heart shaped. They taper to a point. There are 5-7 pairs of easily seen veins. The fruit are small and roundish and purple brown when ripe. They are slightly hairy and have very short stalks. They are mostly in pairs in the axils of leaves. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in rocky places and near cliffs. It is often over limestone material. It grows in areas with a rainfall below 100 mm. It grows between 100-1,850 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The wasp pollinator is Platyscapa desertorum Compton.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

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