



PLANT FACT SHEET

Zanthoxylum avicennae (Lam.) DC.

GENUS *Zanthoxylum* FAMILY Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese prickly ash

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Fruit, Spice

The seed have a sweet peppery taste.

The leaves and fruit are used to flavour food.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree or shrub. It grows 8-14 m high. The trunk is 10-20 cm across. The trunk is straight. It has prickles on the branches. These can be straight or curved. The leaves are alternate. They are 5-30 cm long. There are 2-11 pairs of leaflets with a leaflet at the end. The leaf stalk has narrow wings. The leaflets are almost opposite and 1-8 cm long by 10-3 cm wide. Male and female flowers are separate. The flowers grow on side buds along the flower stalk and this arrangement can be 5-21 cm long. The flowers are 3 mm long. The flowers are white to yellow-green. The fruit is an almost round dry fruit with many seeds. It is 4.5 mm across. These can occur singly or in pairs.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mountainous provinces. It is a light demanding tree. It is often in bushy savannah below 1500 m altitude. It is drought tolerant. It is smaller in dry open mountainous regions. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 200 *Zanthoxylum* species.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/fd7d0629-d266-4c09-99cc-9aa2c543f155>