

Flacourtia indica

Flacourtia indica (syn. *Flacourtia ramontchi*), known commonly as **ramontchi**, **governor's plum**, **batoko plum**, and **Indian plum** (), is a species of flowering plant native to much of Africa and tropical and temperate parts of Asia. *F. indica* and *F. ramontchi* are sometimes treated as separate species.

1 Description

This is a bushy shrub or tree with a spiny trunk and branches. In shrub form it grows up to 25 feet (7.6 m) and as a tree it reaches a maximum height around 50 feet (15 m). The drooping branches bear oval leaves. The seeds are dispersed by birds.^[1]

2 Relatives

The family Salicaceae includes well-known species such as kei apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) louvi (*Flacourtia inermis*), paniala (*F. jangomas*), and rukam (*F. rukam*).

3 Common names

This plant has many common names in many different languages and dialects. In Malay it is *kerkup kechil*, in Thai it is *ta-khop-pa*, in Lao it is *gen*,^[2] *bồ quân Ân* or *mùng quân* in Vietnamese, *boichi* () in Bengali and in Tagalog its names include *bitongol*, *bolong*, and *palutan*. In parts of Africa it is called *kokowi* and in Sri Lanka, *uguessa*. In French it has been called *prunier de Madagascar* and *grosse prune de café*. It is *echte Flacourtie* in German, *ciruela gobernadora* in Spanish, *na-yu-wai* in Burmese, and “munhunguru” in Shona.

4 Uses

The Ramontchi fruit itself is a pome about an inch thick and red ripening purple. It is very fleshy and has 6 to 10 seeds in layered carpels. The pulp is yellow or white and sweet with an acidic tang. It is eaten raw or made in to jelly or jam. It can be fermented to make wine.^[3]

The leaves and roots are used in herbal medicine for treatment of snakebite. The bark is believed to be effective for arthritis. Most parts of the plant are used for cough,

pneumonia, and bacterial throat infection. It has also been used for diarrhea.

The tree is planted as a living fence; it was one of the species used for the Indian Inland Customs Line. The wood is used for firewood and small wooden tools such as plow handles.^[3]

5 Cultivation

The plant is known as an occasionally invasive introduced species in some areas. It has been cultivated in Florida in the United States and today it occurs as a weed in some parts of the state.^[4]

6 Notes

- [1] Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk
- [2] Kerr, Allen D. “Lao-English Dictionary”. Catholic University of America Press, 1972. Reprinted: Bangkok: White Lotus Press 1992
- [3] World Agroforestry
- [4] Flora of North America

7 References

- Morton, Julia F.; *Fruits of Warm Climates*; Julia F. Morton; Miami, FL, 1987.
- Popenoe, Wilson; *Excluding The Banana, Coconut, Pineapple, Citrus Fruits, Olive And Fig (1920)*; The Macmillan Company, 1920.

8 External links

- GRIN Species Profile
- USDA Plants Profile
- Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service, Florida
- *Flacourtia indica* in West African plants – A Photo Guide.

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9.1 Text

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