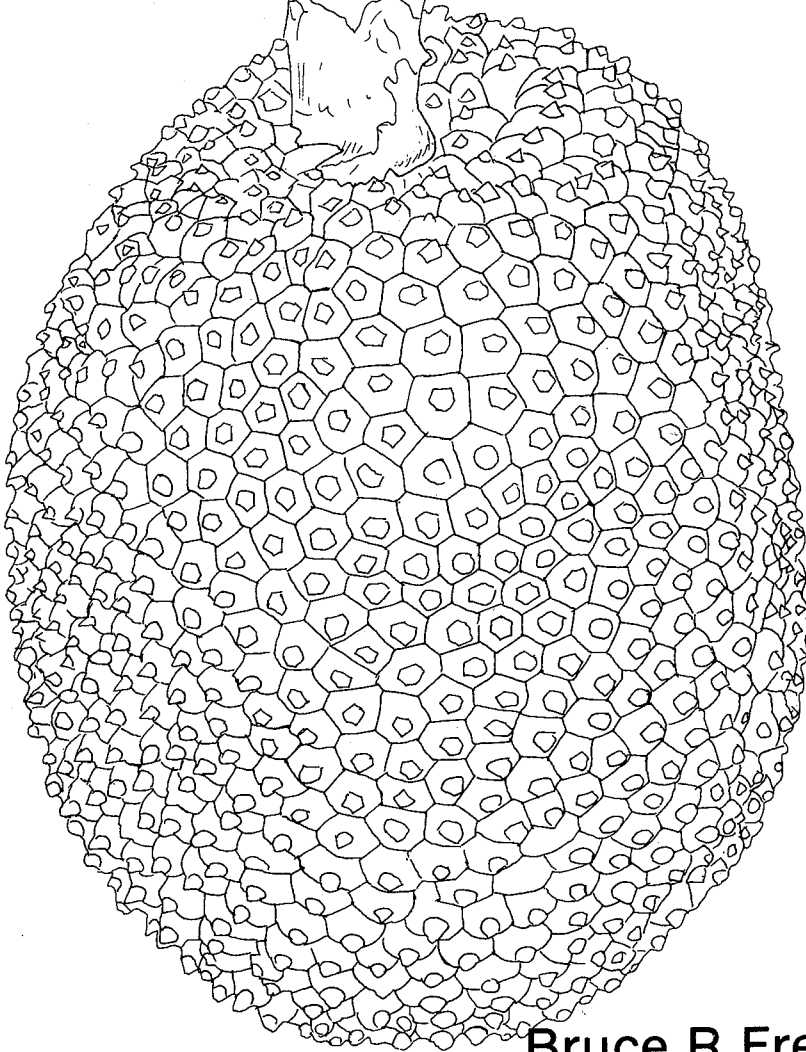


FOOD PLANTS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

a compendium



Bruce R French

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It is the author's desire that the information in this book be used or disseminated wherever appropriate to increase interest in, knowledge of and pride in, food crop production in the tropics. It would be appreciated if prior permission was sought before any commercial reproduction of the information was undertaken.

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*This book is dedicated to our
CREATOR
for the fascinating variety of
food plants He has provided,
and to the hardworking farmers
who cultivate them for their
subsistence.*

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by a grant from the PAPUA NEW
GUINEA BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION.

IT WILL PROBABLY HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS BOOK IF YOU READ THIS PAGE.

This is a first edition of a food crops compendium for Papua New Guinea. In it you are unlikely to find anything new or original. (If you do, it is probably a mistake which I have inadvertently let slip through!), My purpose has been to collect together in one volume bits of information that I have found useful as a field worker with food plants in Papua New Guinea.

The compendium is really just a list of lists -names, synonyms, altitudinal limits, propagation methods, pests, diseases, edible parts, food values etc.. Like most lists, they don't tell you much, but they remind you of things you already knew. IT IS NOT A "HOW TO GROW CROPS" MANUAL. Obviously it would be silly to try to use this book to find out how to grow rice commercially in P.N.G., or how to control scab moth in bananas. Instead you may be able to use the very brief summaries in this volume to help you to more reliably find the information in a more detailed reference book. e.g. if you know the plant, you may recognise the drawing. It would not be safe to identify the plant from the drawing!

The many gaps are obvious. Some are due to my ignorance- I don't have the information. Others are probably more genuine gaps in our scientific knowledge. Whichever, if any of them can be filled then they will result in a more complete and more reliable second edition when it occurs. The aim is to cover in plain English, on a one page format, some of the basic information about the plants, their names, where and how they grow, what parts are edible and how they are used; a list of pest and disease records and some comment on how I see its current importance within the country.

As I'm aware, very brief summaries often do not tell you the things you wish to know. To help fill this information gap, four other books are in the process of being prepared to complement this volume. They are:-

1. Growing the 100 major food plants of Papua New Guinea.
2. Diseases of Food Plants of P.N.G. -a compendium.
3. Insect pests of Food Plants of P.N.G. -a compendium.
4. Reference lists for information on Food Plants of P.N.G..

Papua New Guinea along with its many other attractions has a rich diversity of very nice food plants. It is hoped this volume will stimulate both pride and a search for information.

PEOPLE I WOULD LIKE TO THANK.

My debt is immense to a very large number of people. Students in Vudal Agricultural College allowed me to learn along with them. Many agriculturalists and specialists throughout the country have given me their time and assistance. Village people have generously showed me their gardens, answered my questions, and spent many hours assisting me in locating plants, taking photographs and sharing their knowledge. Ladies in village markets have graciously showed me their produce and put up with my inquisitiveness. The Government of Papua New Guinea have employed me to work in rural development, lecture in college and assist in development projects. Many people who have worked with tropical crops before me have carefully recorded their observations for me to read and benefit from.

My specific debts are to the Papua New Guinea Biological Foundation who financially supported me for one year while I prepared this information for publication, and the Australia Pacific Science Foundation who have assisted with publication expenses.

My wife and family deserve thanks for continueing to put up with a preoccupied Dad!

HOW IS THIS BOOK ARRANGED ?

The pages are grouped according to the types of food-
root crops and staple foods; beans; edible green vegetables;
root and other vegetables; nuts; fruits and then minor foods
and flavourings. Within each group they are grouped roughly
in order of importance or frequency, except that similar groups
are put together.

You can also use the indexes of Scientific name, English
name or Tok Pisin name, which are at the back of the book.

ROOT CROPS	pages 1 to 31
BEANS	pages 32 to 53
GREEN LEAFY VEGETABLES	pages 55 to 94
ROOT AND OTHER VEGETABLES	pages 96 to 155
NUTS	pages 157 to 200
FRUITS	pages 202 to 303
MINOR FOODS & FLAVOURINGS	pages 305 to 393.

Because some plants have leaves and fruit that are both
eaten, you may have to look in different sections to find the
plant you want.