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Flacourtia inermis

MARTINIQUE PLUM is an evergreen shrub or tree. Of uncertain origin (probably south-eastern Asia) it has small, shiny brilliant red berries (crowned with tiny black whiskers). It is also known as Batoko plum, *Cimaikkottaikkala* (Tamil), *Ciruela de Martinica* (Spanish), *Cottaikkalaa* (Tamil), Koorkup, *Lobi-lobi* (Indonesian, Javanese, Malay), Lori-lori, *Louvi malayo* (Spanish), Louvi plum, Lovi-lovi (English, German), *Lubi-lubi* (Sumatran), *Naywe* (Burmese), *Nayuwai* (Burmese), Plum of Martinique, *Prune de la Martinique* (French), *Prunier de la Martinique* (French), *Ratiles* (Tagalog), *Saradan kayu* (Sundanese), Thornless rukam, and *Tomi-tomi* (Malay).

Inermis is Latin (unarmed) meaning ‘spineless, unarmed or without prickles or stings’.

The tree is cultivated in south-eastern Asia for its fruit with their variable-tasting whitish or pinkish flesh. They are usually too acid to be eaten raw and are made into puddings, pies, syrups, chutneys and other preserves (with the sharp seeds removed).

In southern Asia the tree is often grown as an ornamental for its decorative foliage.