



## OTAHEITA APPLE

(*Engenia malaccensis*)

As its name suggests the Otaheita or Malay Apple comes from the far east. Originally found in Malaya, it spread further east to the Society Islands which include Tahiti, and to Hawaii. It was brought to Jamaica in 1793 along with Breadfruit by Captain Bligh in the ship "Providence". The plantation owners had requested these in an effort to increase the sustainable food supply for the slaves.

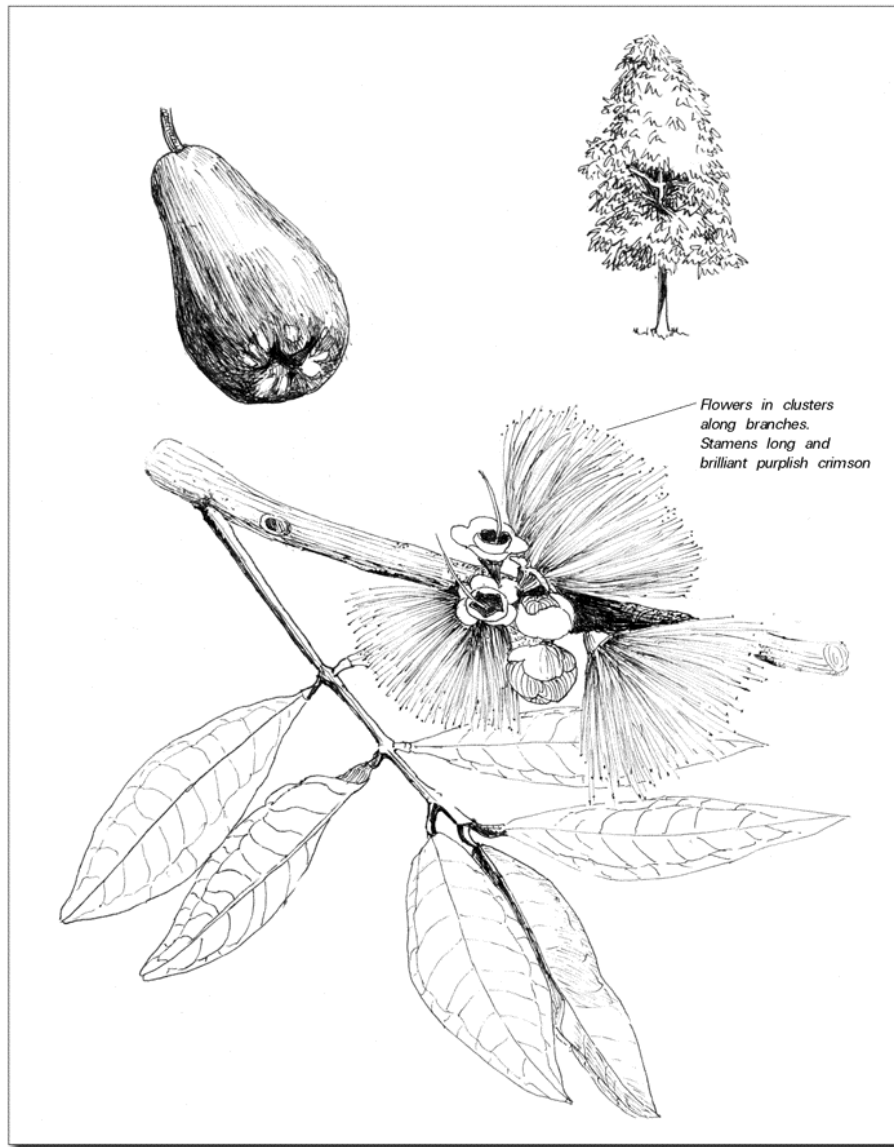
The tree grows at altitudes from sea-level to about 600 m especially in moist areas. The trunk is straight and the branches spread out to make a good shade tree. It grows to a height of 8-10 m. The leaves are thick, glossy and oval in shape, averaging 20-26 cm x 10 cm in size.

The blossom is spectacular - growing on short stems in clusters of 2 - 5 flowers along the branches. Each flower is about 5 cm in diameter, has 5 petals and more than a hundred long stamens, all of a brilliant purplish crimson colour. The leaves may hide the blossom from the outside, but step into the shady interior and the whole tree seems full of blossom and birds. As the flowers age, the stamens drop to form a crimson carpet.

The apple itself is shaped like a pear. The skin is a waxy crimson. The inside is a white, slightly woolly, juicy pulp surrounding a single stone or seed. The fruit is edible raw, or cooked.

## OTAHEITA APPLE (*Engenia malaccensis*)

Family: <b>Myrtaceae</b>	Species: <i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	Author: (L.) Merr. and Perry
-----------------------------	--	---------------------------------



Height: 10m	Habitat: Sea level-600m	Persistence: Evergreen
----------------	----------------------------	---------------------------