PLANT FACT SHEET

Quercus coccifera L.

GENUS *Quercus* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Kermes Oak, Grain tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Acorns, Nuts

The ripe nuts are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A low evergreen shrub. It grows 3-4 m high. The bark is grey and smooth. It becomes scaly when old. The leaves are like holly. They are shiny on both upper and lower surface. They are leathery. They are 1-4 cm long. The fruit occur singly or in pairs. It has sharp scales on the cup around the acorn. The cup is 1-3 cm across. The acorn is 1.5-3 cm long.

HABITAT

It grows in Mediterranean countries. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Temperate.

NOTES

There are about 600 Quercus species. The cochineal insect often grows on this tree.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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