PLANT FACT SHEET

Canarium pimela K. D. Koenig

GENUS *Canarium* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese black olive

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - oil

The fruit are edible. Fruit are eaten fresh or crystallised.
They are sometimes pickled. The stone is removed.
The seed contains an edible oil.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 8-15 m tall but can grow 30 m tall. The trunk is 1.5 m across. The trunk is straight and it branches high up. The bark is brown with black sap. The leaves are unequal. The leaflets are long and oval. They are 6-12 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They are shiny above and dark coloured underneath. There are 8-10 pairs of side veins. The leaf shape of seedlings varies. The leaves have 4-6 pairs of leaflets. The flower clusters are branched. The flowering stalks are 8-35 cm long with 1-4 fruit on long stalks. The flowers are white. The fruit are narrowly oval and fleshy. They are 3-4 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. There are 3 unequal cells. The fruit are dark reddish blue to black when ripe. They contain 1 or 2 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dense forests. In Yunnan, China it grows between 600-1300 m altitude. They occur in northern Vietnam mostly below 500 m altitude. The tree needs plenty of light. It prefers a deep humid soil. It mostly grows on steep land.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

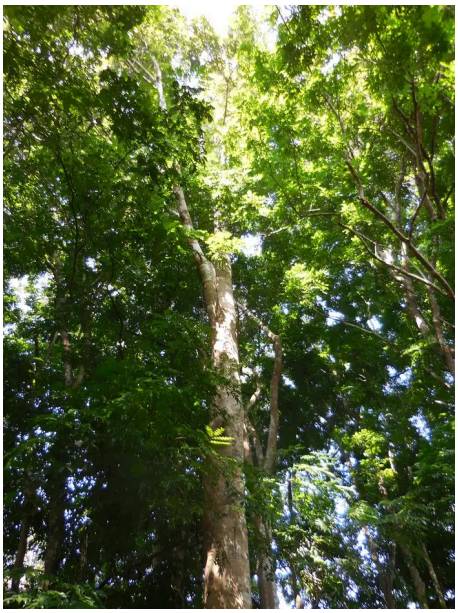
Harvesting and Seed Production

The tree is fast growing. Flowering occurs in April-May and fruiting in October-December.

NOTES

There are 80-95 Canarium species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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