PLANT FACT SHEET

Gaultheria nummularioides D. Don.

GENUS *Gaultheria* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Coinwort snowberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Fruit - tea

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also dried for tea drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub which lies along the ground. It develops into a hummock with its twigs woven together. It grows 5-40 cm long. The leaves have short stalks. They are alternate. They are 0.8-2 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. They are oval and with fine hairs underneath. The flowers occur singly. They are in the axils of leaves. Flowers are reddish or white. The fruit is blue-black and 6 mm long.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. In Nepal they grow between 2100-4100 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed or root offshoots.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In the Himalayas it flowers August to September and fruits October to February.

NOTES

There are about 170 Gaultheria species.

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