PLANT FACT SHEET

Melastoma imbricatum Wallich ex Triana

GENUS *Melastoma* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 1-5 m tall. The stems are 4 sided. There are many branches with dense hairs. The leaves are broadly oval and 8-21 cm long by 6-14 cm wide. They are hairy especially underneath. There are about 12 flowers in a group at the ends of the branches. There are 2 leaf like bracts at the base. The petals are pink to red. The fruit are round or urn shaped and 1.3 cm long by 0.9 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dense broad-leaved forests and most places between 100-1,500 m above sea level in southern China.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in June to July and fruit February to March.

NOTES

There are about 90 Melastoma species.

REFERENCES

Altschul, S.V.R., 1973, Drugs and Foods from Little-known Plants. Notes in Harvard University Herbaria. Harvard Univ. Press. Massachusetts. no. 3080

Anderson, E. F., 1993, Plants and people of the Golden Triangle. Dioscorides Press. p 215

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/1fc3b10f-53f1-4f2b-a7e8-142103df9601