PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Lycium ferocissimum Miers

GENUS *Lycium* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES African boxthorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit although eaten are suspected of having narcotic effects.

DESCRIPTION

A densely branched shrub. It grows 3-4 m high. It is very spiny. The main branches are drooping. The branches spread out at wide angles. The branches usually end in a spine. The small branches carry small shoots with a cluster of leaves. The leaves are bright green and slightly fleshy. They are broad and oval and rounded at the tip but tapering at the base. They are 10-30 mm long and 4 mm wide. The flowers are pale lilac or white. They occur singly or in pairs on short shoots. The fruit is an orange-red berry. It hangs down.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It can grow on acid or alkaline soils. It is often in rocky crevices or rocky knobs. It grows easily in higher rainfall areas. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 9-10. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 100 Lycium species. It can become a weed problem in some locations.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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