PLANT FACT SHEET

Drypetes deplanchei (Brogn. & Gris) Merr.

GENUS *Drypetes* **FAMILY** Putranjivaceae

COMMON NAMES Yellow Tulipwood, Grey boxwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - flavouring

The oval fruit are eaten raw when ripe.
The leaves are used to flavour seafood dishes.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 5-25 m high. The trunk is straight. There are often flanges or buttresses at the base. The bark is grey or brown and scaly. The crown is dense and dark green producing shade and shelter. The leaves are smooth, alternate and leathery. The young leaves are prominent teeth and older leaves are more smooth. They can be wavy at the edge. The leaves are 0.8-15 cm long by 0.6-6 cm wide. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The flowers are usually in clusters. They are 4-6 mm across. There are no petals but 4 or 5 sepals that can be green, white or yellow. The fruit are oval and red when ripe. They are 1-2 cm long and 0.8-1.1 cm wide. The flesh inside is yellow. There is one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in monsoon vine forests in coastal areas. In tropical Australia it grows from sea level to 800 m altitude. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. It is native to coastal rainforests in Australia. They suit hardiness zones 9-11.
They need protection from hot sun when young. They suit well drained acid soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed which must be sown fresh. Male and female trees are needed for fruit.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, fruit mature February to April.

NOTES

There are about 200 Drypetes species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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