PLANT FACT SHEET

Ardisia crispa (Thunb.) A. DC.

GENUS *Ardisia* **FAMILY** Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Coral Ardisia, Deer-eye coralberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit, Flowers

The bright red berries are eaten.
The leaves are eaten in salads.

DESCRIPTION

An erect shrub. It has leaves arranged in a spiral. It grows 60-150 cm high. It has creeping rhizomes or underground stems. The stems have small hairs. The leaf stalk is 5-8 mm long. The leaves are narrow and slightly toothed. They are 7-25 cm long by 1-5.8 cm wide. There are 8 side veins each side of the midrib. The flowers are pink and waxy. The petals overlap. The flowers occur in drooping heads with the oldest at the outside. These are in the axils of leaves on special curved side branches and near the top of the plant. The fruit are bright red berries. They are 5-6 mm across. They are one seeded.

HABITAT

It is a temperate and subtropical plant. It needs to be in frost free places. In China it grows in mixed and broad leafed forests and damp places between 100-2500 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 7-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 250-300 Ardisia species. They are mainly in the tropics. The roots are used in medicine. Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

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