PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Gaudium laevigatum* (Gaertner) F. Muell.

**GENUS** *Gaudium* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Coast tea-tree

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves - tea

The leaves are used for making tea drinks.

## DESCRIPTION

A tall dense shrub. It grows 3-6 m high. It spreads 3-5 m across. The leaves are grey-green and narrowly oval. They are 1-3 cm long by 8 mm wide. They are broadest and roundest near the tip. They end with a small point. The leaves have 3-5 distinct veins along them. The flowers are white and 2 cm across. They usually occur in pairs. The fruit is a greenish capsule 8 mm across. It opens by 8-10 narrow valves. It falls off.

## HABITAT

It grows in temperate and subtropical locations. It grows in coastal heath. It is commonly on sand dunes and cliffs. It can tolerate salt spray. It needs well drained soil It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can tolerate light frosts. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. Geelong Botanical Gardens. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

## NOTES

There are about 82 Leptospermum species. Most grow in Australia. It can be invasive.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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