PLANT FACT SHEET

Xylosma congesta (Loureiro) Merrill

GENUS *Xylosma* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Piercing oil tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - oil, Leaves

The leafy shoots are eaten. The leaves contain the glucoside syringin.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 10 m high. It has sharp spines on the trunk. The leaves are oval and 3-8 cm long and 2-5 cm wide. They taper to the tip and are rounded at the base. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are small and greenish-yellow. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. The flowers occur in groups in the axils of leaves. The fruit is like a berry and black. It is 3-4 mm across. There are 2-3 seeds.

HABITAT

It grows in limestone regions in southern China. It grows in sunny hillsides between 500-1,100 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In China plants flower in July to November and fruit August to December.

NOTES

Also put in the Flacourtiaceae family.

REFERENCES

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READ, (As Xylosma japonica)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/30b1ab5f-bba0-4d91-af20-640e49b819e9