PLANT FACT SHEET

Edibility uncertain
It has not been confirmed that this plant is safe to eat. Do not eat it on the strength of this fact sheet alone.

Melastoma normale D. Don

GENUS *Melastoma* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

COMMON NAMES Hairy berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Leaves

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It can be several metres high. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. The branches are densely shaggy. The stems have a reddish tinge. The leaves have short stalks. The leaves are sword shaped and taper to the tip. They are hairy on both surfaces. There are 3 veins. The flowers are pink to purple. They occur in clusters. They have 5 petals.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 900-1800 m altitude. It grows in sunny areas of open forests.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or root offshoots.

NOTES

There are about 90 Melastoma species.

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