PLANT FACT SHEET

Osyris lanceolata Wall. ex Wight

GENUS *Osyris* **FAMILY** Santalaceae

COMMON NAMES Bark bush, Tannin bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Bark - tea, Root - tea, Fruit

The leaves are steamed, dried in the shade, then used for tea.
The bark is also used for tea.
The ripe fruit is eaten raw. The seed is not eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows about 3-6 m high. The branches are slender and 3 sided. They hang down. The leaves have short stalks. They are alternate and 2-7 cm long by 05.-3 cm wide. They are oval. The tip tapers. The flowers are stalked. They are small and greenish. The fruit is fleshy with a hard covering over the seed. The fruit is nearly round. It is orange when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 900-2500 m altitude. In China it grows in thickets between 600-2700 m altitude in S China. In India it grows on the shady slopes of pine forest between 1000-1500 m altitude. It is often on limestone. In Thailand it grows between 1,000-2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are available throughout the year but most common from July to December.

NOTES

There are 6-7 Osyris species.

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