PLANT FACT SHEET

Embelia tsjeriam-cottam (Roem. & Schult.) A. DC.

GENUS *Embelia* **FAMILY** Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Malabar embelia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Spice, Leaves

The fruit are used to adulterate black pepper.
The leaves are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

It is a shrub or small tree. It grows 1-2 m tall. It can be a climbing plant. It can grow 6-15 m tall. The leaves are oval and pointed and usually at the end of the plant. The leaves are smooth. They are oval and 5-10 cm long by 2-7 cm wide. The edges are often wavy. The leaves are often purplish underneath. The flowers are in groups on the side of the stems. These are 3 cm long. The flowers are small and greenish yellow and 3 mm wide. The fruit are very similar to Embelia ribes. They are round and red and when ripe are sweet tasting. The fruit are 4-5 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It occurs in the Western Ghats in India. It grows in hilly places which receive plenty of rain. It grows in forests and grasslands.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In southern India, plants flower and fruit January to April.

NOTES

There are about 140 Embelia species.
It has medicinal properties. Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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