PLANT FACT SHEET

Ilex yunnanensis Franchet

GENUS *Ilex* **FAMILY** Aquifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Baby tea, Yunnan holly

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Leaves - tea

The young shoots are used as a substitute for tea.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 1-3 m high. The branches have rusty iron coloured hairs. The leaves are alternate and broadly sword shaped. They are 2-4 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The tip tapers an the base is round. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are small and white. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The fruit are fleshy and red, They occur singly. They are 5-6 mm across. There is one seed.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. In southern China it grows in evergreen broad-leaved forests between 1,100-3,500 m above sea level. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

REFERENCES

Hu, Shiu-ying, 2005, Food Plants of China. The Chinese University Press. p 520

Smith, N., Mori, S.A., et al, (Eds.), 2004, Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Princeton. p 27 (As Ilex yunnanensis var. eciliata)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3fa8fd9b-8c3d-4d3d-857b-dbfb47c7ec29