PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Rivina humilis L.

GENUS *Rivina* **FAMILY** Phytolaccaceae

COMMON NAMES Coral berry, Bloodberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Caution: The fruit may be slightly toxic.

DESCRIPTION

A herb or shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. The stems are erect and slender. They are often woody near the base. The leaves are alternate and taper to the tip. They are 4-12 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are bright green. They are sword shaped with a rounded shoulder at the base. The leaf stalk is about the same length as the leaf blade. The flowering cluster is near the ends of branches and is like a slender spike. The flowers are small and white. The fruit is round or pear shaped. They are 3-4 mm across. It is bright red. There is one seed inside. The seeds are black. The crushed leaves have a strong smell.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It usually grows on the edges of rainforests. It suits humid locations. It also grows in shaded places in warm climates. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 900 m altitude. In Africa it grows between 550-1,300 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are 3 Rivina species. The occur in tropical America. The berries yield a red dye.
Probably in a hot house in Slovenia.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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