PLANT FACT SHEET

Vaccinium bracteatum Thunberg

GENUS *Vaccinium* **FAMILY** Ericaceae

COMMON NAMES Sea bilberry, Black rice tree, Oriental blueberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - flavour

The fruit are slightly acid and eaten raw when fully ripe. They are also used for jam and wine.
The leafy shoots are boiled with rice to turn it black.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 0.6-0.9 m tall. It spreads 0.6-0.9 m wide. It can be 3 m high. The branches are slender and grey but are red when young. The leaves are narrowly oval and have small teeth. The leaves are red when young and turn pale green. They are 5 cm long by 2 cm wide. The flowers are small and white or pink. There are often 10 flowers in a group. The fruit are red berries. The fruit are 5 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in temperate places. It grows in dense forests. In Yunnan in China it grows between 1,100-2,000 m altitude. It grows in subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest. In Japan it grows in poor soils along the coast. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or by cuttings.

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