PLANT FACT SHEET

Decaspermum fruticosum Forst.

GENUS *Decaspermum* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Shrubby decaspermum, Polynesian myrtle, Tailor tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Shoots, Fruit

The young shoots are eaten as a seasoning.
CAUTION: In large amounts they cause constipation.
The black berries are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or slender tree. It can grow 14 m high but is often 2.5 m high. The stems are flattened and hairy. The leaves are simple and opposite. The leaf blade is narrowly oval and 1-4 cm long. They are rounded at the base and have dots over the surface. The leaf stalk is 1-3 mm long. The flowers can be at the ends of branches or in the axils of leaves. Mostly they occur singly but can be in groups of 3. The flowers are pink. The fruit is small and flattened. It is 4-6 mm across and has several seeds. The fruit are black.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It mostly grows on the edges of forest. In Samoa it occurs between 100-650 m altitude. In Indonesia it grows up to 1,300 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

NOTES

There are about 30 Decaspermum species.

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