PLANT FACT SHEET

Berberis darwinii Hook.

GENUS *Berberis* **FAMILY** Berberidaceae

COMMON NAMES Darwin's barberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw when fully ripe. The seeds are not eaten.
The ripe fruit are used in preserves.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 2.5-3 m high and spreads 3.5 m wide. The leaves are glossy and spiny. They are dark green above and paler underneath. They are small. They are like holly leaves. The flowers are small and cup-shaped and orange-yellow. They hang in large numbers among the leaves. The fruit are blue berries. They are 7 mm across. The fruit have many seeds.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It can tolerate temperatures down to -15°C. It has become naturalised in Australia in the Dandenong ranges in Victoria. It is wind hardy. It can grow in coastal locations. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,500 m above sea level. Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from cuttings taken in winter.

NOTES

There are about 450-500 Berberis species. This one can become invasive.
There is some evidence it helps Alzheimer's.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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

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