PLANT FACT SHEET

Amyema bifurcata (Benth.) Tieghem.

GENUS *Amyema* **FAMILY** Loranthaceae

COMMON NAMES Forked mistletoe

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, flower - nectar

The ripe yellow fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A mistletoe. It grows on Acacia, Angophora, Corymbia and Eucalyptus species. It hangs down and does not have runners. It can have rusty scales or hairs. The leaves are simple and 7-35 cm long by 1-2.5 cm wide. They do not have hairs. The leaf stalk is 1-4 cm long. The flowers are in a group in the axils of leaves or near the ends of branches. There are 5-6 red petals. The flowers are 2-3 mm long. The fruit is a yellow or orange berry. They are 1 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. In tropical Queensland it grows between 140-800 m altitude.

NOTES

There are about 90-100 Amyema species. In Australia there are about 70 species of mistletoe in the Amyema and Mullerina genera and they all have edible fruit. The seeds should not be eaten.

REFERENCES

Cancilla, D., 2018, Ethnobotanical and Ethnozoological Values Desktop Assessment - Eliwana Project. p 10

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 194, 198

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 269

Kenneally, K.E., Edinger, D. C., and Willing T., 1996, Broome and Beyond, Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management. p 116

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 291

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 19

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 283

Smith, M & Kalotas, A. C., 1985, Bardi Plants: An Annotated List of Plants and Their Use by the Bardi Aborigines of Dampierland, in North-western Australia. Rec. West Aust. Mus. 1985, 12(3): 317-359

Smith, N., 1993, Bushfoods - an Annotated List: Fruit and Seeds Eaten by Aboriginal People in Northern Australia. Winnellie, NorthernTerritory. The Archives of the Rare Fruit Council of Australia.

Steenbeeke, Greg as part of the Plants Directory project. List of plant species from northern NSW that may be used as food plants p 5

Wheeler, J.R.(ed.), 1992, Flora of the Kimberley Region. CALM, Western Australian Herbarium, p 571

Wightman, Glenn et al. 1991.Alawa Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from Minyerri, Northern Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 11. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p 4

Wightman, Glenn et al. 1992. Mudburra Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from Kulumindini (Elliott) Northern Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 14. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p 10, 9

Wightman, Glenn et al. 1992, Mangarrayi Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from the Elsey Area Northern Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 15. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p 8, 9.

Wightman, Glenn et al. 1994, Gurindji Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from Daguragu Northern Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 18. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p. 12, 11.

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7084bbea-aa5f-4fdf-b19d-f637fcc3985e