PLANT FACT SHEET

Vitex melicopea F. Muell.

GENUS *Vitex* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Vitex

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 30 m high. It can have buttresses. The leaves are compound and opposite. There are 3-5 leaflets and these are 3-15 cm long. The fruit is 4-16 mm across. They occur singly or in bunches on the ends of branches. The ripe fruit can be pink, red, black or brown. The fruit squashed between the fingers leave a yellow stain. There are several seeds within a stony layer. The seeds are 2.5 mm long by 1.5 mm wide. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. The plants grow naturally in rainforest in Queensland in Australia. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 340 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They are slow to germinate. This can take 1-2 years. Plants can be grown from cuttings.

NOTES

Also put in the family Verbenaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7679c6e2-6094-40e2-98da-8468162e765d