PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros humilis (R. Br.) F. Muell.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Black ebony, Australian ebony, Queensland ebony

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe red fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It has a spreading crown forming a shady tree. It grows 8 m high. The bark is rough and dark. The leaves are alternate and shiny green above and duller underneath. They are 1-3 cm long by 0.5-2.5 cm wide. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Male flowers are in clusters of 3-5. Female flowers usually occur singly. The petals are silky, hairy and 5 mm long. The fruit are berries 11 mm long by 9 mm wide. The fruit is oval and yellow to orange. There is a calyx cup at the base.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in monsoon vine forests. It grows in wetter areas of sandy forests. In tropical Queensland it grows between sea level and 900 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Anon., 2003, Native Plants for the Fitzroy basin. Society for Growing Australian Plants Inc. (Rockhampton Branch) p 46

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 155

King, M. & Horsfall, J., 2023, Kimberley Bush Food. Edible Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. UWAP. p 316

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 82

Levitt, D., 1981, Plants and people. Aboriginal uses of plants on Groote Eylandt. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra. p 93

Melzer, R. & Plumb, J., 2011, Plants of Capricornia. Belgamba, Rockhampton. p 105

Milson. J., 2000, Trees and Shrubs of north-west Queensland. DPI p 62

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 231

Pearson, S. & A., 1992, Rainforest Plants of Eastern Australia. Kangaroo Press p 89

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 (As Diospyros ferrea var. humilis)

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.

territorynativeplants.com.au

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 11

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 18

Yunupinu Banjgul, Laklak Yunupinu-Marika, et al. 1995, Rirratjinu Ethnobotany: Aboriginal Plant Use from Yirrkala, Arnhem Land, Australia. Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin No 21. Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. p 35

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/807d3904-e5ed-4395-88ae-b8fccda588be