PLANT FACT SHEET

Codonocarpus cotinifolius (Desf.) F. Muell.

GENUS *Codonocarpus* **FAMILY** Gyrostemonaceae

COMMON NAMES Desert poplar, Bell-fruit, Bell Fruit Tree, Horseradish Tree, Native Poplar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Grubs, Roots

CAUTION The plant is probably posionous.
The sappy roots are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized shrub or small tree. It grows 3-12 m high and spreads 1.5-4 m wide. The bark is smooth and pink. The leaves are 2-5 cm long and broadly sword shaped. Male and female trees are separate. The flowers occur in flowering stalks in the axils of leave near the ends of branches. The fruit are bell shaped and 1 cm long and hang down in clusters. They are lime green. Bark, leaves and twigs have a horseradish taste.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It needs well drained soil and full sun. It is frost and drought resistant. It suits semiarid regions.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Plants can be transplanted easily. They can also be pruned.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows very quickly. It has a life span of about 10-15 years.

NOTES

The Gyrostemonaceae are endemic to Australia. There are 3 Codonocarpus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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