PLANT FACT SHEET

Litsea pungens Hemsley

GENUS *Litsea* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Mu jiang zi

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - oil, Fruit - spice, Root - spice, Leaves

The oil from the fruit is used to give a sweet smell to food.
It is also used for high grade spices and Vitamin A.
The fruit (seeds) are used as a spice.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 3-10 m tall. The young branches are hairy. The leaves are alternate. Often leaves are grouped near the tips of young branches. The leaf stalk is 1-2 cm long. The leaf blade is oval or sword shaped and 4-15 cm long by 2.5-5 cm wide. It narrows to a sharp tip and is rounded or wedge shaped at the base. There are 5-7 pairs of side veins. There are 8-12 flowers in a cluster. Flowers form before the leaves. Fruit are round and black and 7-10 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows along stream banks on sunny slopes between 800-2300 m altitude in China. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are 200 or 400 Litsea species.

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