PLANT FACT SHEET

Exocarpos latifolius R. Br.

GENUS *Exocarpos* **FAMILY** Santalaceae

COMMON NAMES Broad-leaved native cherry, Broad-leaved Ballart, Misletoe tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stalk

The fruit and seed are sometimes chewed with betel leaf.
The ripe fruit stalk is eaten. It is juicy and sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 4-8 m high. It spreads 3-6 m across. It has very dark green shiny leaves. The leaves are egg shaped. They are 1.5-7 cm long by 1.5-7 cm wide. They are leathery and have veins along them. The flowers a very small and cream. They are arranged in spikes. These can be 1.2 cm long. The fruit are 8 mm long and red. The fruit have a base or stalk which swells and turns bright red when ripe. This plant grows as a parasite on the roots of other plants.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It can grow in coastal sand dunes and in mountains near the coast. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 900 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

NOTES

There are about 26 Exocarpus species.

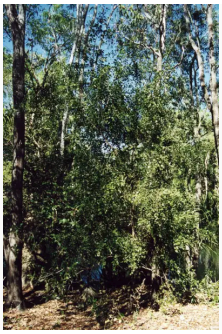
PICTURES



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