PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros whyteana (Hiern) F. White

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Bladder nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds - coffee

The fruit are eaten. They have little flavour.
The seeds are used as a coffee substitute.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It grows up to 12 m high. It can have one or several stems. The crown is rounded and shiny green. The bark is smooth and dark grey. The young twigs are yellow-green and have fine hairs. The leaves are alternate and in 2 ranks. They are simple and narrowly oval. They are very shiny dark green. Some leaves can be orange or red. The leaves are pale green underneath. The flowers are pale pink or white. They are in short racemes in the axils of leaves. Male and female flowers are on different plants. The fruit are almost hollow. They are a round berry. They have 4 or 5 lobes. The fruit are red to purple when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. Young plants need frost protection. It is tolerant to drought once established. In Wittunga Botanical Gardens Adelaide. It suits hardiness zones 10-11. Melbourne Botanical gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds are collected from fruit of the tree and dried in the shade. The seeds should be soaked in hot water and allowed to stand overnight.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fairly fast growing.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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