PLANT FACT SHEET

Syzygium owariense (P. Beauv.) Benth.

GENUS *Syzygium* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Swamp waterberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Leaves and fruit contain the oil eugenol used for flavouring food.
The ripe fruit are eaten raw. The seeds are discarded.

DESCRIPTION

A semi-deciduous tree. It grows up to 8-17 m tall. It has stilt roots. It has branches that point upwards into a bushy crown. The bark is grey and changes from smooth to rough with age. The leaves occur opposite one another along the branch. They are blue-green and thick and leathery. They are about 10 cm long and shiny. The leaf tapers to a long blunt point. The leaf stalk is pink-red and the midrib is pink-yellow on top but clear underneath. The leaf has a smell when crushed. The flowers are creamy white coloured and with many stamens. The flowers have a sweet smell. The flower clusters are up to 15 cm across. They occur on angular square stalks. The fruit is oblong and fleshy. It is about 1.5 cm long by 1 cm wide. The fruit is green at first but becomes purple to black when ripe. The fruit has one seed.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in swamp forest often not far from the sea. It is most commonly along stream banks. It occurs in southern Africa and in west Africa. It grows at higher altitudes.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from fresh seed. Seed only remains viable for one day. They can be put in pots then transplanted or planted directly in their final site. Seeds germinate well and within about 30 days. There are 400 seeds per kg.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are collected at the end of the rainy season and into the early dry season.

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