PLANT FACT SHEET

Myrsine semiserrata Wall.

GENUS *Myrsine* **FAMILY** Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Zhen chi tie zai

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3-7 m high. The branches are slightly angular. They are 1.5-2 mm thick. The leaf stalks is 6-8 mm long. The leaf blade is sword shaped and 5-14 cm long by 2-2.5-4 cm wide. They are papery or slightly leathery. The leaf is slightly unequal on either half. The base is wedge shaped and there are teeth along the edge. The flowering stalk is in the axils of leaves. The flowers are white or yellowish. The fruit is red and becomes purple black. It is round and 5-7 mm across. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. In China it grows in broad-leaved forest on limestone hills and near streams in sunny places. It grows between 500-2700 m altitude in S China. Melbourne Botanical gardens. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 300 Myrsine species.
Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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