PLANT FACT SHEET

Cartrema americana (L.) G.L.Nesom

GENUS *Cartrema* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

COMMON NAMES American olive

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are softened in brine and used like green olives.
The flowers are used to add aroma to black tea.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or small tree. It grows 9 m tall. The trunk is 30 cm across. The bark is grey, thin and scaly. The inner bark is dark red. The crown is oblong. The leaves are opposite and 9-13 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are narrowly oval and thick and leathery. They are shiny green above and dull and paler underneath. The flowers are 5 mm wide. They are bell shaped and white. The male and female flowers are usually on separate plants. The flowers are in clusters. The fruit are like olives. They are dark blue and 10-19 mm long. They have a thin pulp and large stone.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in moist soils. It can be near riverbanks or as an understorey plant in forests. It grows to 150 m altitude in the southern USA.

NOTES

There are about 32 Osmanthus species.

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Tanaka, (As Osmanthus americanus)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/aed6b68b-3428-4812-9a47-ccb09100441b