PLANT FACT SHEET

Planchonella obovata (R. Br.) Baehni

GENUS *Planchonella* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Northern Yellow Boxwood, Black Ash, Yellow Teak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, seeds, Nuts

The fruit is eaten fresh.
It is also made into a drink. The fruit are dried and ground into a powder and stirred into milk.

DESCRIPTION

Shrubs or trees which can be up to 40 m tall. The trunk is 50 cm across. The trunk is crooked. It has buttresses. The bark is brown. The small branches are angular. They have rust coloured hairs when young. The leaves are scattered along the twigs. The leaf stalk is 0.5-5 cm long. The leaf blade is oval to sword shaped and 6-24 cm long by 1.5-15 cm wide. They are membranous, papery, or leathery. There are 5-13 pairs of secondary veins. The leaves are rust coloured and hairy on one side and smooth and shiny on the other. Several flowers (1-20) occur on clusters in the axils of leaves. They can be female or of both sexes. The flower petals are 2-3 mm long. They are white to greenish. The fruit are white, yellow, red or blue when fresh. They are round to oval and about 1.5 cm across. It is smooth and with yellow sweet flesh. There are 1-5 seeds inside. The seeds are long and 8-12 mm long by 2-3.5 mm across. They are yellow with a narrow scar.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow in thickets at low elevations. It occurs in wet tropical forests. It can grow in cooler conditions. It can grow in poor soil conditions. It grows on rocky and sandy coasts on the landward side of mangroves. In Indonesia it can grow in lowland forest up to 400 m altitude. In the Andes it grows from sea level to 2,700 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from fresh seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants can produce in 5 years from seed. Fruit matures in about 180 days.

NOTES

The leaves are used for medicine. There are about 100 Planchonella species. They are mostly in Asia and the Pacific.

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