PLANT FACT SHEET

Lycium ruthenicum Murray

GENUS *Lycium* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Russian Box thorn, Black gojiberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are eaten fresh and also dried for tea and used in soup.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub. It grows 1.8 m high. The shoots are greyish. The leaves are 6-25 mm long by 1-1.5 mm wide. They are narrow and can be spoon shaped. The spines are 10 mm long. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a berry 5-8 mm wide. It is black. The seeds are kidney shaped and 2 mm long. They are brown.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In Pakistan it is a spiny shrub of dry areas between 1,500-2,600 m altitude.

NOTES

There are about 100 Lycium species.

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