PLANT FACT SHEET

Ehretia rigida (Thunb.) Druce

GENUS *Ehretia* **FAMILY** Boraginaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape lilac, Puzzle bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - drink

The fruit are eaten raw when ripe. They are very sweet. They are also prepared with water and used as a gravy.

DESCRIPTION

A small straggly tree which loses its leaves during the year. It grows 2-5 m tall. It has a short stem and spreading crown. The bark is smooth and grey. The leaves are simple and alternate. The leaves are broadly oval and 2.5 cm long. They are leathery and borne close together near the ends of twigs. The flowers are pale pink. They are 7 mm across. The occur in clusters in branches. The fruit are round and orange to red. They are small and cherry like and in clusters. The seed are oval, brown, hard and fibrous. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from 800 m to 1200 m altitude. It occurs from the edges of evergreen forest to open woodland. It is drought and frost resistant. It can grow in arid places. It grows in Miombo woodland in Africa. In Brisbane Botanical gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings. Seeds germinate in 10-20 days. Seedlings can be transplant at the 2 leaf stage.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 50 Ehretia species. They have also been put in the family Ehretiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b9f17bd4-e20a-4fe7-a453-c4574bfdaf7a