PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Coromandel Ebony persimmon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. Unripe fruit are buried in sand until they ripen.
The seeds are powdered and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 15 m high. The bark is dark brown. It peels in large irregular pieces. There are many branches forming a dense crown. The leaves vary. They are 10-30 cm long by 2-10 cm wide. They are leathery. The base tapers to a wrinkled stalk. The flowers are greenish. The male flowers are in drooping clusters of 2-7 flowers. The female flowers occur singly and are 2-3 cm across. The fruit is yellow to brown. It is covered with rusty hairs. The fruit are round and 4-6 cm across. The fruit pulp is sweet and edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout the plains in India in deciduous forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India fruit are available June to August. In southern India, February to April.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

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