PLANT FACT SHEET

Litsea glutinosa (Lour.) C. B. Robinson

GENUS *Litsea* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Brown bollygum, Brown beech

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit - spice, Fruit - oil

The sweet pulp under the red skin of the ripe fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tall shrub or small tree. It grows 6-10 m high and 3-5 m across. The young growth is sticky. The leaves are 7-28 cm long by 3-18 cm wide. They are dark green above and paler with white hairs underneath. They are leathery and taper to the tip. The flower groups are 1-4 cm long. There are 6-14 flowers clustered in the axils of the leaves. The flowers are 0.4 cm across and cream or green. They have a scent. The fleshy fruit is 0.8-1 cm long by 0.8-1.1 cm wide. They are black.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It northern Australia it grows from sea level to 600 m altitude. They need well drained soil and slight shade. It grows in coastal areas. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed. The seed are slow to germinate. This may take 6 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees begin to bear fruit after 5-6 years.

NOTES

There are 200 or 400 Litsea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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