PLANT FACT SHEET

Ternstroemia cherryi (F. M. Bailey) Merr.

GENUS *Ternstroemia* **FAMILY** Pentaphylacaceae

COMMON NAMES Cherry beech

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: Parts of this plant have been reported to be poisonous.
The flesh of the ripe fruit is reported as edible.

DESCRIPTION

A compact tree. It grows to 8-15 m tall. New shoots are bronze coloured. The leaves are sword shaped and 6-16 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They are dark green and thick textured. Sometimes the leaves are in ringed layers. Male and female flowers can be on separate trees or the same tree. The flowers are thick, waxy and cream coloured. They are 2 cm across. They are produced in the axils of leaves. The fruit is large and fleshy and orange. It is 3-5 cm long by 2-3 cm across. Fruit are produced singly. Ripe fruit can open in an irregular shape revealing pink-red seeds. There are 4 seeds which are 1.5-2 cm long. The flesh of the fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. Plants require some protection when young. In Papua New Guinea it grows from sea level to 1200 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are slow growing. Flowering and fruiting occurs between August and March (April to October) in Australia.

NOTES

There are about 60-85 Ternstroemia in tropical America. There are 2 in Africa. They have also been Ternstroemiaceae.

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