PLANT FACT SHEET

Melastoma cyanoides Sm.

GENUS *Melastoma* **FAMILY** Melastomataceae

COMMON NAMES Bush Strawberries

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized shrub. It grows up to 2.5 m high and spreads 1-2 m wide. It has an open bushy habit. Young growth has rusty hairs. The leaves are simple and 3-12 cm long by 2.5-6 cm wide. Both sides of the leaf have a sandpapery texture due to rough hairs. Leaves are dark green above and paler underneath. The flower panicles are crowded and at the ends of branches or in the axils of upper leaves. There are up to 7 flowers in a group. The flowers are 2.5-3 cm across and white. The fruit are 16 mm long by 9 mm wide. They occur singly or in clusters. They can be in the axils of leaves or at the end of branches. The fruit are red. They have many small seeds inside. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in disturbed areas of tropical rainforest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

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Plants of Papua New Guinea LAE herbarium record

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d01150b5-0815-40aa-9ef1-03cc012fab03