PLANT FACT SHEET

Elaeocarpus serratus L.

GENUS *Elaeocarpus* **FAMILY** Elaeocarpaceae

COMMON NAMES Ceylon-olive

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seed

The fruit are eaten either pickled or in curries. They can be eaten raw. They are also used in drinks.
The ripe seeds are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 20 m tall. It has a rounded compact crown. The trunk is light yellowish white. The leaves are small and oval and taper towards the base. They have shallow teeth along the edge. The leaves turn rich orange red as they age. The flowers are white. The fruit are like olives but dull greenish-yellow. They are 4 cm long. The seeds are large and knobbly. There are 3-4 seeds in each fruit. The fruit pulp is acidic.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native from India to Malaysia. It grows in the wet lowlands. It grows up to 800 m above sea level in Sri Lanka. It grows in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests up to 1,600 m above sea level in Indonesia.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows moderately slowly.

NOTES

There are about 360 Elaeocarpus species mostly in the tropics.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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