PLANT FACT SHEET

Berberis lycium Royle

GENUS *Berberis* **FAMILY** Berberidaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian Lycium, Indian barberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Leaves - tea, Flowers

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used in preserves.
The young shoots and leaves are used as a vegetable and for a tea-like drink.
The flowers are chewed.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous shrub. It grows 3 m tall. The stems are slender. There are short spines 25 mm long on the stems. The leaves are oblong or sword shaped and 5 cm long. They are grey-green. Sometimes they have teeth. The flowers are golden yellow. There can be 20 flowers in a cluster. The fruit are black berries with a grey bloom.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in cold desert in north India. In the Himalayas it grows between 1,400-3,200 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 6-9.

NOTES

There are about 450-500 Berberis species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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