PLANT FACT SHEET

Embelia laeta (L.) Mez

GENUS *Embelia* **FAMILY** Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Sour embelia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Leaves - tea

The roots and young leafy shoots are used for tea.
The fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows to 1 m high. The branches are straight but flexible. They are 1.5-2 mm across. The leaf stalk is 5-9 mm long. The leaves are oval. It is 3-6 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide but can be larger or smaller. They are papery and dull. The base is wedge shaped and the edges can curl. There are 6-10 side veins each side of the midrib but these are not easy to see. The flowering stalk is in the axils of the leaves. There are 3-15 flowers. The flowers are white or yellowish. The flower groups are 1 cm long. The petals are 1-1.5 mm high. The fruit are round and 5-8 mm across. There are 2 subspecies based on the hairiness of the branches.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow in S China. It grows between 100-2,000 m above sea level. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 140 Embelia species. Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

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