PLANT FACT SHEET

Elaeocarpus dentatus (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Vahl.

GENUS *Elaeocarpus* **FAMILY** Elaeocarpaceae

COMMON NAMES Hinau

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The flesh of the fruit is used cooked.
It is also pickled and used in curries.
The kernel of the fruit is used to make a floury meal and eaten as a bread after baking.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It can grow 15-20 m high. The trunk can be 1 m across. The leaves are oblong and are white and hairy underneath. The leaves are tough and the edges are rolled. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are white. These hang in clusters of 8-12 flowers. The fruit are fleshy with a hard stone inside. The fruit are 18 mm long. The fruit ripen to grey-purple. The flesh is edible.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. In New Zealand it grows from sea level to 600 m altitude. It is best in rich, well drained soils and a protected sunny position. It is resistant to frost but damaged by drought. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 360 Elaeocarpus species mostly in the tropics.

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