PLANT FACT SHEET

Vitex glabrata R. Br.

GENUS *Vitex* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Black fruit, Black grape, Black-plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The very ripe fruit are eaten. They can be cooked or sun dried and stored.

DESCRIPTION

A moderate sized tree. It grows 7-12-25 m high. The crown is rounded. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are opposite and have 3 leaflets. The central leaflet is the longest. The leaflet blade is 4-18.5 cm long and 3-10 cm wide. Leaves are smooth and dark green on the upper surface. The leaf stalk can be 3-10 cm long. The flowers are cream with a purple throat. The are tube shaped and finely hairy. Flowers are 0.8-1 cm long. They occur on forked flower stalks which form flower arrangements 6-18 cm long by 10-18 cm wide. The fruit are smooth and round. They are 0.5-1.5 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. The calyx hangs on at the base. They are purple-black when ripe. They have 4 seeds in a hard shell.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows naturally in coastal monsoon vine forests. It is often just above the beach on stable foreshores. It needs well drained soils. It grows up to 900 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

Also put in the family Verbenaceae.

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