PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassytha glabella R. Br.

GENUS *Cassytha* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Devil's twine, Slender Dodder laurel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: The fruit contain small quantities of a poisonous alkaloid and should not be eaten in large quantities. The alkaloid can cause abortion and should not therefore be eaten by pregnant women.
The fruit are eaten and used as flavouring in baking.

DESCRIPTION

A twining plant. It is without hairs and keeps growing from year to year. The stems are greenish-brown to yellow-orange. Plants have small suckers along the stem which attach to trees. It climbs 1-2 m high and spreads 1-3 m wide. The leaves are very small and scale like. The flowers are very small and white or cream. The fruit have a succulent outer part. There is one seed inside. The fruit are 6-7 mm long. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows in heathland particularly coastal and open forest. It eventually kills the host plant. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seeds germinate on the ground but then parasitise trees.

NOTES

There are 15-20 Cassytha species. Sometimes they are in the family Cassythaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Caton, J.M. & Hardwick, R. J., 2016, Field Guide to Useful Native Plants from Temperate Australia. Harbour Publishing House. p 362

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 194, 198

Curtis, W.M., 1993, The Student's Flora of Tasmania. Part 3 St David's Park Publishing, Tasmania, p 597

Dashorst, G.R.M., and Jessop, J.P., 1998, Plants of the Adelaide Plains & Hills. Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium. p 64

Daw, B., Walley, T. & Keighery, G., 2001, Bush Tucker. Plants of the South-West. Department of Conservation and Land Management. Western Australia. p 24

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 51

Paczkowska, G. & Chapman, A.R., 2000, The Western Australian Flora. A Descriptive Catalogue. Western Australian Herbarium. p 277

Tasmanian Herbarium Vascular Plants list p 37

Whiting, J. et al, 2004, Tasmania's Natural Flora. Tasmania's Natural Flora Editorial Committee PO Box 194, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia 7315 p 198

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e8b2ee09-5c39-4d0a-90b1-7ac775846d3f