PLANT FACT SHEET

Alectryon tomentosus (F. Muell.) Radlk.

GENUS *Alectryon* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Woolly rambutan, Hairy Bird's eye, Red Jacket

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: seeds - aril

The fruit aril or layer around the seed is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized bushy tree. It grows 8-12 m high. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. Leaves are 12 cm long and there are 2-4 pairs of leaflets. Each leaflet is 14 cm long by 6 cm wide. They are hairy all over. The edges are toothed. The pair of leaflets at the end are larger. New growth is pinkish. The flowers are small and cream. They are about 0.4 cm across. They occur in small panicles. The fruit have 1-3 hairy lobes. They are 1.5 cm across. Each lobe contains a large black seed in a red fleshy fruit. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

It is frost hardy once established. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 950 m altitude. It needs rich, moist soil. It suits hardiness zones 9-10. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are 15-34 Electryon species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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