PLANT FACT SHEET

Berberis empetrifolia Lam.

GENUS *Berberis* **FAMILY** Berberidaceae

COMMON NAMES Fuegian barberry, Crown barberry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit pulp is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen shrub. It is spreading and almost lies along the ground. It grows to 45 cm high and spreads 60 cm across. There are spines on the branches. The leaves are dark green above and grey underneath. They have spines at their tips. The flowers are deep yellow. They occur singly or in pairs in the axils of the upper leaves. The fruit is black with a blue bloom.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In Chile it grows from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows to 3,500 m above sea level. It is in humid areas with constant rain. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. It can tolerate frost and snow.

NOTES

There are about 450-500 Berberis species.

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