PLANT FACT SHEET

Ilex brevicuspis Reissek

GENUS *Ilex* **FAMILY** Aquifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Short cusp holly

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea

The leaves are used as a blend for erva-mate tea but it is not popular.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 10-20 m high. The trunk is 30-60 cm across. The bark is smooth. The crown is tall and pyramid shaped. The leaves are papery. They are 2.5-6 cm long by 1.2-1.9 cm wide. The flowers are small and in groups in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a berry with 2-4 seeds and a thin pulp.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forests in the Amazon in Brazil. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and the seeds squeezed out under running water. The seeds need to be buried in cold damp soil for 6 months and fresh seed may take one year to germinate. Seedlings can be transplanted in to the field after 10 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f339aaa8-7652-463f-a763-85708f75fa7b