PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros ebenum Koenig.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Ceylon Ebony, Ebony persimmon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: There have been reports of toxic effects when large amounts of fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree which loses its leaves. It is a tall tree. The bark is grey. The wood is hard, black and heavy. The leaves are alternate and have short leaf stalks. The leaves are oval or oblong and leathery. They are entire and glossy. The male and female flowers are separate on the same tree. The flowers do not have leaf stalks. They male flowers are in clusters and the female flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. The fruit is an oval berry. They are 2-2.5 cm across. They have a rusty brown surface. There are 3 to 8 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in humid coastlands and lowland forests. It needs rich, moist soils and a protected sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed should be planted deeply.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics. The wood is very hard,

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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