PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros lasiocalyx (Mart.) B. Walln.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Caqui-do-cerrado

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The pulp of the ripe fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 4-7 cm high. It has a dense crown. The trunk is bent. It is 15-25 cm across. The bark is cracked. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are shiny above and hairy underneath. The veins are clearly visible. The leaves are 12-18 cm long by 7-12 cm wide. The leaf stalks are 1.5-2.5 cm long. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They do not have stalks. They are green. The fruit are a round berry 6 cm across. They have rusty hairs when young. They become sweet and edible when ripe. They have 6-8 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in central Brazil. It grows in scrubland and savanna. It suits the seasonally dry tropics. It has been recorded between 500-1,500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruited are harvested and allowed to soften in plastic bags so that the seeds can be easily removed. The seeds germinate in 4-6 weeks.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly.

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