



PLANT FACT SHEET

Drypetes arguta (Muell. Arg.) Hutch.

GENUS *Drypetes* FAMILY Putranjivaceae

COMMON NAMES Water ironplum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten raw.

It is also used to make an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It grows to 6 m high. The bark is slightly rough and cracked. The leaves are simple and carried alternately. The leaves are sword shaped or oval. The base of the leaves is round and uneven and notched. The leaf tapers towards a pointed tip. The leaves are 4-8 cm long and with sharp teeth along the edge. They have very short leaf stalks. The male and female flowers are on separate trees. They grow in the axils of the leaves in young growth. The fruit are round and apricot red. They are 2 cm across and have 2 cells. The fruit is edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal forest and near streams. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 6

NOTES

There are about 200 *Drypetes* species. These were previously in the Euphorbiaceae.

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