



Ian McMaster



Unknown

Tiebush

Wikstroemia indica

BOTANICAL NAME

Habitat/Ecology

Woodland rocky or sandy soils; margins of rainforests, beach scrub and fore dunes. Fruit and leaves toxic to stock; fruit eaten by some birds.

Home use

Ornamental, fruit poisonous.

Habit

Shrub to 2 m.

Flowers/Fruit

Flowers: spring and summer; pale green-yellowish cream clusters; tubular; each flower to 2.5 cm long.

Fruit: summer and winter (especially Dec-Feb); yellow/orange/bright red; 6 to 8 mm long; poisonous.

Leaves/Stems

Stems: fibrous. Bark: Reddish and tears off in strips (used for making rope and paper overseas).

Leaves: 6.5 x 2.5 cm, dark green top, paler below, veins both sides.

Propagation

Seeds, germinates within 15 days of sowing; grows slowly; produces fruit within first year.

Water/Shade

Partial shade; well drained.

Maintenance

Fertile soil; new shoots develop from cut stump.



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