



***Olea paniculata* R.Br.**

Family: Oleaceae

Common names: Theera, Native Olive



Description:

Olea paniculata is found in India, Himalaya, Nepal and Bababudangiri hills. It grows as a bushy tree up to 30 m in height. The trunk has smooth grey-brown bark and reaches a maximum diameter of 90 cm with some buttressing. The leaves are shiny green, ovate to elliptical, acuminate (pointed end) and 5–10 cm in length. The fruits are blue black in colour and are oval.

Utilization:

It is a suitable pioneer species on sunny protected sites, but needs well drained soil for good growth. The fruit was traditionally eaten by Aboriginal Australians (Cribb and Cribb, 1975). The reddish-grey wood is hard, tough, durable and close-grained, it takes a good polish and is unlikely to be eaten by insects. It is used for staves and turnery.

References:

Cribb A.B. And Cribb J.W; (1975) Wild Food in Australia. Sydney: Collins.