

## *Aleurites moluccana*

### **Common name:**

Candle nut,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Probably not eaten, a member of the Euphorbia family.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Probably toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Nuts are toxic to humans before cooking.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

. A phytotoxin and a saponin,

### **Effects:**

#### *Signs and Symptoms:*

. Has been eaten without ill-effects, but (possibly unripe nuts) have sometimes been reported to cause severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

. Probably the high fat content (50%) which produces most of the ill effects”.

. Pounded and roasted by aborigines before cooking.

. Two varieties, found in SE Asia and on Cape York north of the Windsor Tableland, and another between Windsor Tableland and Townsville, have been shown to be more toxic.

. Raw nuts produce severe purging.

#### *Health and Production Problems:*

. Be aware of health risks with raw nuts.

#### *Treatment:*

. See Doctor,

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

. Not applicable.

### **Comments:**

. A large, evergreen, spreading tree with alternate leaves which have 3 - 7 lobes, and long tapering tips.

- . Leaves may reach up to 20cms long and 10cms wide on long stalks, but are usually only half this size.
- . Leaves are shiny above and lighter below, often with a silvery bloom.
- . Flowers are in bunches, small, bell-shaped, creamy white and fragrant.
- . Fruits are fleshy, about 5cms across, and contain one ribbed seed with a waxy kernel.
- . A member of the Euphorbia family.
- . Native to tropical Asia, Pacific Islands, Australia and NZ.



Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.



Picture: *Aleurites moluccana* Wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

. Covacevich, Davie and Pearn.  
Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987.