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Aleurites cordata

[Synonyms : *Dryandra cordata*, *Elaeococca verrucosa*, *Vernicia cordata*]

JAPANESE TUNG OIL TREE is an evergreen tree. Native to southern China it has small white flowers.

It is also known as Japanese wood-oil tree, and Tung oil.

The seeds yield Japanese tung oil.

Warning – all parts of the tree may be poisonous (especially the seeds) but some authorities believe any virulence could be less than that of other relatives.

Cordata is derived from Greek *cordi-* (heart) component meaning ‘heart-shaped’.

The seed oil has been used by the Japanese in lamps for illumination and to a lesser extent for machinery lubrication. Today the oil is used commercially for waterproofing fabrics and paper.

For some Japanese tung oil tree is believed to be the source of the best of all drying oils. In the past it has also been used for varnishing paper and wood and is still used today commercially in paints and varnishes.