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Duboisia myoporoides

CORKWOOD TREE is a shrub or tree. Native to Australia (particularly New South Wales, and Queensland) and to New Caledonia, it has tiny, white to pale mauve flowers.

It is also known as Cork tree, Corkwood, Duboisia, Eyeplant, Mgmeo, and Pituri.

Warning – a very poisonous plant that can cause death if taken to excess.

Myoporoides is made up of the genus name *Myoporum* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like plants in the *Myoporum* genus’.

The leaves are used commercially to prepare insecticide. The timber is used for carving.

700-800 tonnes of dried leaves are harvested annually from this (and closely related species) for the pharmaceutical industry. Used during the Second World War they are the source of various drugs that are extracted from the dried leaves. These include atropine, hyoscyamine (or hyoscine), and scopolamine that are used in such preparations as travel sickness tablets, medication for shell-shock, general sedatives and ophthalmological drugs for dilating pupils.