

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

**Family:** Oleaceae

**Common names:** Theera, Native Olive

**Part used:** Wood, fruit



**Description:**

*Olea paniculata* is found in India, Himalaya and Nepal, Western-Ghats, Anaimalai, Nilgiris and Bababudangiri hills. It is a bushy tree grows up to 30 m in height. Bark is smooth and grey-brown in colour and reaches up to 90 cm in diameter. Leaves are shiny green in colour and ovate to elliptical in shape. Fruits are blue-black in colour and are oval in shape. Fruits are 0.8–1.2 cm long.

**Utilization:**

It is a fast pioneer species and needs well drained soil for good growth. The fruit was traditionally eaten by Aboriginal Australians (Cribb and Cribb, 1975). 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. & Cribb, J.W. (1975) Wild Food in Australia. Sydney: Collins.