

Blue Tongue

Melastoma affine



Adaptation to environment

- Hairy leaves make them less edible & reduce water loss
- Sweet, dark-purple fruit contains tiny, hard seeds that pass unaltered through gut of birds & other animals for greater dispersal.



Where do I live? Woodland Swamp

What eats me?

- Many creatures (including humans) eat sweet fruit
- “Melastoma” means “black mouth” referring to dark staining after eating fruit.



- Tall shrub to 2 m • Leaves fleshy, hairy, oval-shaped with strong veins • Showy mauve to purple flowers with yellow stamens • Grows in moist places.