PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora mollis (Oliv.) Engl.

GENUS *Commiphora* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Velvet commiphora, Velvet corkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Roots - drink, Shoots, Gum

The roots are chewed raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small to medium sized tree. It grows to 8-12 m high. The leaves have 2-6 pairs of leaflets and one at the end. The lower pair are smaller. The flowers are small and yellow to pinkish. They are in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are almost round and 10 mm across. They are densely furry. They are green becoming red. The base of the stone is covered with a flat, scarlet false seed layer with 4 wings.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. They grow at medium to low altitude in hot, dry types of woodland. It grows on well-drained sandy or stony soils. It grows between 100-1,500 m above sea level. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 200-900 mm per year. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from large cuttings. It can be cut back and re-grow.

NOTES

There are about 165 Commiphora species.

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