PLANT FACT SHEET

Cussonia krausii Hochst.

GENUS *Cussonia* **FAMILY** Araliaceae

COMMON NAMES Krauss's cabbage tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots

The swollen roots are eaten in times of famine.

DESCRIPTION

A small slender tree. It grows to 5.5 m tall. It has an underground tuber which is edible. The leaves have 7-9 leaflets coming from a common point. The leaf stalk is long and grooved. The tips of the leaflets are shortly pointed. They are glossy and deep green. The buds are in short spikes at the ends of branches. The flowers are cream and have stalks. The fruit are small and round.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal dune forests.

NOTES

There are 20 Cussonia species. They occur in South Africa.

REFERENCES

Palmer, E and Pitman, N., 1972, Trees of Southern Africa. Vol. 3. A.A. Balkema, Cape Town p 1699

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