PLANT FACT SHEET

Vangueria volkensii K. Schum.

GENUS *Vangueria* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit is sweet and acid and is eaten.
Fruit can be dried and stored for up to 12 months and then soaked before eating.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15 m high. It loses its leaves for a short time. The branches often arch over. The bark is dark grey and can be slightly cracked. The leaves are simple and opposite. The leaves are velvety and hairy. They are oval with a long point. They are 3-17 cm long. The flowers are pale green or yellow. The fruit are round berries 3 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and the highlands. It grows in mountain rainforest. It suits humid locations. It is often in rocky places and on termite mounds. In Kenya it grows between 900-2,500 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The seeds grow best after breaking the hard seed coat.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from April - August.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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