PLANT FACT SHEET

Zanthoxylum heitzii (Aubrev. & Pellegr.) P. G. Waterman

GENUS *Zanthoxylum* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It can grow 35 m tall. The trunk is 20 m tall. The trunk can be 1.5 m across. There are prickly processes on the trunk. These can be 9 cm long. The leaves are alternate and clustered at the ends of branches. The leaves are compound and have leaflets along the stalk with one at the end. There are 25-51 leaflets. The leaves are up to 100 cm long. The leaflets are almost opposite and without stalks. They are oval or sword shaped and 4-15 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. There are small round teeth along the edge. The flowers are of one sex. They are small and without a stalk. They are near the ends of branches and in groups 40 cm long with many flowers. They are white. The fruit is a round follicle 4 mm across. The seeds are round and 2.5 mm across and black and shiny.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in evergreen forest up to 1,200 m above sea level. It is best in well-drained soils. Seedlings need light.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Plants grow rapidly. Seeds germinate in 25-30 days. They are best not soaked in water.

NOTES

It is used in medicine for malaria. It has been shown to kill some malaria larvae. It is also being checked for use for HIV and sickle cell disorder.

REFERENCES

Dzoyem, J. P., et al, 2013, Cytotoxic and antimicrobial activity of selected Cameroonian edible plants. Complementary and Alternative Medicine. BMC. 13:78 (As Fagara heitzii)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/0fb44280-6180-4f0e-bdbf-f3c6fefe287c