PLANT FACT SHEET

Olea europaea subsp. africana L. , (Mill.) P. S. Green

GENUS *Olea* **FAMILY** Oleaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild olive, Africa Olive

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: fruit, Leaves - tea, Flowers

The fruit can be eaten. They are a substitute for olives.
The leaves can be soaked in boiling water to make tea.
The leaves are used as a condiment.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub or tree. It can be 14 m tall. The trunk is single, sturdy and straight. Roots stretch for many metres. Trunks can be 4 m across. The bark is rough and dark. The twigs are covered with small raised dots. The leaves are slender and opposite. They are 1.9-9 cm long and 0.7-1.3 cm wide. They are sword shaped. They taper to the tips. They are usually dark green above and paler below. The under-surface has silver scales. The flowers are small and green. They have a faint scent. They occur in short branched sprays in the axils of leaves. The fruit is about 1 cm long and oblong. They are green and turn black. The fruit are edible. There is a single seed.

Probably now Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow on a large range of soils and in many climates. It will grow in alkaline soils. It is drought resistant. It often grows near running water. It grows between 1,499-2,450 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is easily grown. It can be raised from seed or hardwood cuttings. Fresh seed should be used. Seeds germinate in 8-12 days. Annual pruning stimulates growth. Commercial olives can be grafted onto it.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

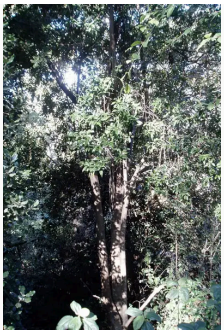
NOTES

There are over 20-40 Olea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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