PLANT FACT SHEET

Chaetachme aristata Planch.

GENUS *Chaetachme* **FAMILY** Ulmaceae

COMMON NAMES Thorny elm

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can be scrambling or spreading. It can grow to 13 m tall. The branches are drooping. They zigzag. The bark is smooth and grey. The twigs can have spines at the end and in the leaf axils. The leaves are 3-9 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. They are oval and tape to the tip. There is a bristle as the end. They are dark green and shiny above and paler underneath. The flower groups are 5-15 mm long and greenish-cream. There are small bracts under them. The fruit is green but turns yellow or orange as it ripens. It is oval and 35 mm long by 20 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows at low to medium altitudes in mixed evergreen forest. In Malawi it grows between 600-1,300 m altitude.

NOTES

There is only one Chaetacme species. Also put in the family Celtidaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/148bbe01-dd92-43a1-bf90-28a741472d80