PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora mossambicensis (Oliv.) Engl.

GENUS *Commiphora* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Pepper-leaf corkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots

The roots are chewed probably for their sweet moisture.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It does not have thorns. It loses its leaves during the year. The trunk is usually single. The crown is round. The bark is smooth and brown. The young twigs are velvety. The leaves are alternate and have 3 leaflets. The leaf stalk can be 45 mm long. The leaflets droop. The leaflets are almost round. The flowers are in clusters in the axils of leaves. They are small and yellow to pink. Male and female flowers occur on different plants.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the hot arid bushveld. It is often on rocky hillsides. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 500-800 mm per year. It grows between 390-1,600 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. It grows in Miombo woodland.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees are used as a live fence.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The rootstock is collected during the rainy season.

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