PLANT FACT SHEET

Canthium spinosum (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze

GENUS *Canthium* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Spiny canthium, Coastal canthium

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. They have a pleasant flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 1.5-9 m tall. It has spines up to 2.5 cm long. These occur in pairs. The leaves grow in bunches on short warty growths. The leaves are green above and lighter underneath. They are 1.3-5 cm long. The flowers are small and green. They occur in short spreading heads. These are in the axils of leaves. The fruit are often 2-lobed. Fruit are bluish-green when ripe. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is usually in coastal forests. It is often on rocky hill slopes.

NOTES

There are about 200 Canthium species.

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