PLANT FACT SHEET

Rotheca uncinata (Schinz) P. P. J. Herman & Retief

GENUS *Rotheca* **FAMILY** Lamiaceae

COMMON NAMES Cat's claw

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 1.2 m high. The stems are spiny. They have 2 hooked thorns at the base of every leaf. The leaves are opposite and oval. They taper towards the tip. The flowers are bright red. They are 15 mm long. The fruit have an unpleasant smell. The fruit are 1-2 cm across. They turn from green to black when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in well-drained sandy soils. It can grow in places with a dry season of 6-11 months. It grows between 915-1,310 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

REFERENCES

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 19th April 2011]

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