PLANT FACT SHEET

Euclea crispa (Thunb.) Guerke

GENUS *Euclea* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Blue guarri, Blue-leaved euclea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit is eaten.
The leaves are also edible. They are considered an appetiser.
CAUTION: The fruit are said to be strongly purgative.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-2 m high. It can be up to 8 m tall. The bark is grey and smooth. The leaves are sword shaped and 1.5-5 cm long by 0.5-1.5 cm wide. The colour of the green can vary but leaves are paler underneath. The flowers are very small and green to yellow. There are 3-10 flowers in sprays in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a round berry the size of a pea. It is red but becomes black when ripe. The fruit is edible. There is one seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open woodland among rocks and at the edge of forests. In Malawi it is mainly in scrub among rocks. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows between 1,100-2,300 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fairly slow growing.

NOTES

There are 12-15 Euclea species. Euclea are restricted to Africa, Arabia, Comoros and Socotra.

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