PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Combretum aculeatum Vent.

GENUS *Combretum* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush willow

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Fruit

Caution: The leaves should be eaten with caution. They are used in medicine.
The leaves are cooked and eaten.
The seeds are sweet and are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A scrambling shrub. It can grow to 4 m high. The young leaves and flowers have reddish hairs. The leaves fall off. They are small and alternate. They are 1-5 cm long and 8 mm wide and opposite leaves can be of unequal size. The flowers are along small stems. The flowers are 1.3 cm long. They have red anthers.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry savannah. It grows in the Sahel. It can tolerate flooding. It is often on sandy and stony soils. It grows between 10-1,700 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall above 200 mm. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. It can be grown from cuttings and root suckers. It can be cut back and will re-grown.

NOTES

There are about 255 Combretum species. It is used in medicine.

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