PLANT FACT SHEET

Thylacium africanum Lour.

GENUS *Thylacium* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Mutungu

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tuber, Root, Fruit

The skin of the root is removed, the cortex cut up, pounded, and soaked, then strained, and the remaining material boiled for many hours and used as a porridge.
Caution: It can be toxic unless well prepared.
The fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows up to 5 m tall. The leaves often have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are 3-10 cm long by 1-6 cm wide. They are narrowly sword shaped. The flowers are 3 cm across and greenish-white. They have a dark purple centre. They are in groups with a few flowers. The fruit have 5-10 ribs.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in semi arid places. In Tanzania it grows between sea level and 1,600 m above sea level. It is rare in Swaziland. It grows in the lowlands.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plant can be grown by seeds or cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Tubers are collected during the rainy season. Dried flour can be stored for several months.

NOTES

An unresolved name in The Plant List.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2dd84dce-7744-420e-bdf7-4a116e9edbed