PLANT FACT SHEET

Afrocanthium burtii (Bullock) Lantz

GENUS *Afrocanthium* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Mottled-bark canthium

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit pulp is eaten raw. It tastes like chocolate.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows to 8 m high. Young twigs are green. The bark becomes grey and often mottled. It is smooth and can peel. The leaves are oval and 5-9 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. They have fine rather harsh hairs. The veins are dark. The leaf stalk is 5-10 mm long. The flowers are greenish. They have a sweet scent. They occur in small round heads in the axils of leaves. They are on a common stalk 2 cm long. The fruit are oval and 10 mm long. They are black when mature. They occur in dense clusters.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It occurs at low altitude on rocky hills and in hot dry woodland. In Tanzania it grows between 800-2,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected February to April.

NOTES

There are about 60-200 Canthium species.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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