PLANT FACT SHEET

Dobera glabra (Forssk.) Juss. ex Poir.

GENUS *Dobera* **FAMILY** Salvadoraceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Plant, Fruit, Seeds, Gum

The ripe fruit pulp is eaten raw. They are also boiled and eaten.
The kernels are eaten after repeated boiling or cooking for up to 24 hours.
If it is eaten in large amounts it can cause stomach upsets.
Gum from the tree is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It grows 10 m tall. The bark is green or grey and patchy. The leaves are opposite and grey-green. They are thick and smooth. The leaves can be 7 cm long. There is often a notch at the tip. The flowers are small and white. The fruit are oval and 2 cm long. They have 1 or 2 flat seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It produces better during times of drought. It grows in dry areas and salty soils. In East Africa it grows between 400-1,300 m altitude. It can grow in arid places. It grows in areas with a mean annual rainfall between 100-600 mm.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds. They are sown directly where they are to grow. It can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a very slow growing tree. It yields more leaves and fruit during drought times. In Kenya trees flower March to April and fruit July to August.

NOTES

There are 2 Dobera species. When the shrub shoots prolifically it indicates drought is approaching.

REFERENCES

Addis, G., Asfaw, Z & Woldu, Z., 2013, Ethnobotany of Wild and Semi-wild Edible Plants of Konso Ethnic Community, South Ethiopia. Ethnobotany Research and Applications. 11:121-141

Addis, G., et al, 2013, The Role of Wild and Semi-wild Edible Plants in Household Food Sovereignty in Hamer and Konso Communities, South Ethiopia. Ethnobotany Research & Applications. 11:251-271

Asfaw, Z. and Tadesse, M., 2001, Prospects for Sustainable Use and Development of Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia. Economic Botany, Vol. 55, No. 1, pp. 47-62

Bahru, T., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plants: Sustainable Use and Management by Indigenous Communities in and the Buffer Area of Awah National Park, Ethiopia. Ethiop. J. Sci., 36(2): 93-108

Balemie, K., & Kebebew, F., 2006, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Derashe and Kucha Districts, South Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

Bekele-Tesemma A., Birnie, A., & Tengnas, B., 1993, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Ethiopia. Regional Soil Conservation Unit. Technical Handbook No 5. p 194

Duguma, H. T., 2020, Wild Edible Plant Nutritional Contribution and Consumer Perception in Ethiopia. Hindawi International Journal of Food Science Volume 2020, Article ID 2958623, 16 pages

East African Herbarium records, 1981,

Encycl. suppl. 2:493. 1812

Ethiopia: Famine Food Field Guide. http://www.africa.upenn.edu/faminefood/category1.htm

Gemedo-Dalle, T., et al, 2005, Plant Biodiversity and Ethnobotany of Borana Pastoralists in Southern Oromia, Ethiopia. Economic Botany 59(1) pp. 43-65

Giday, M., et al, 2023, Use of wild edible and nutraceutical plants in Raya-Azebo District of Tigray Region, northern Ethiopia. Tropical Medicine and Health (2023) 51:58

Guinand, Y., & Lemessa, D., 2000, Wild-food Plants in Southern Ethiopia. University of Pennsylvania - African Studies Center. UN-EUE Addis Ababa.

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 75

Kidane, B., et al, 2014, Ethnobotany of Wild and Semi-wild Edible Fruit Species used by Maale and Ari Ethnic Communities in South Ethiopia. Ethnobotany Research and Applications. Vol. 12, 1546-3465-12-455

Lulekal, E., et al, 2011, Wild edible plants in Ethiopia: a review on their potential to combat food insecurity. Afrika Focus - Vol. 24, No 2. pp 71-121

Mahony, D., 1991, Trees of Somalia. A Field Guide for Development Workers. Oxfam Research Paper 3. p 9

Maundu, P. et al, 1999, Traditional Food Plants of Kenya. National Museum of Kenya. 288p

Morgan, W. T. W., 1981, Ethnobotany of the Turkana: Use of plants by a Pastoral People and Their Livestock in Kenya. Economic Botany 35(1):96-130

Mutie, F. G., 2020, Conservation of Wild Food Plants and Their Potential for Combatting Food Insecurity in Kenya as Exemplified by the Drylands of Kitui County. Plants 2020, 9, 1017

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Ngugi, G., 2000, Case Study from Kenya on Indigenous Wild Vegetables. Paper 4 Workshop in Kenya 1999. p 34

Ocho, D. L., et al, 2012, Assessing the levels of food shortage using the traffic light metaphor by analyzing the gathering and consumption of wild food plants, crop parts and crop residues in Konso, Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 8:30

Oduor, F. O., 2023, Diversity and utilization of indigenous wild edible plants and their contribution to food security in Turkana County, Kenya. Front. Sustain. Food Syst. 7:1113771.

Omer, M., 2011, Diversity of Woody Species, Local Knowledge and Management Practices in Different Land Use Systems of Awbare Wereda, Jig-Jiga Zone of Somali Region, Ethiopia. M. Sc. thesis Addis Abba University p 47

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 178

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 10th June 2011]

Teklehaymanot, T., and Mirutse Giday, M., 2010, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants of Kara and Kwego semi-pastoralist people in Lower Omo River Valley, Debub Omo Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 2010, 6:23

Teklehaymanot, T., 2017, An ethnobotanical survey of medicinal and edible plants of Yalo Woreda in Afar regional state, Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 13:40

Termote, C., et al, 2014, Assessing the potential of wild foods to reduce the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet: An example from eastern Baringo District, Kenya. Food and Nutrition Bulletin, vol. 35, no. 4

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/sea/products/afdbases/af/asp/SpeciesInfo.SpID=695

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/36c92e04-e209-434b-bb0e-0151973a15df