PLANT FACT SHEET

Dombeya rotundifolia (Hochst) Planch.

GENUS *Dombeya* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Stem

The fruit are eaten raw. They have a pleasant acid taste.
The flowers are cooked and eaten as a side-dish to which pumpkin leaves are sometimes added.

DESCRIPTION

A softy hairy tree. It grows up to 9 m tall. It has many branches and loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are large, leathery and rounded with a heart shaped base. The flowers are pink or white and in branched clusters. The flowers usually occur when the tree is without leaves. The fruit are small and dark. They are the size of an olive.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in grassland in Malawi at 1,500 m altitude. It can grow between 60-2,135 m above sea level. It grows in hot arid places. It can tolerate frost. It often grows over limestone parent material. It can tolerate drought. It can re-grow after fire. It can grow in arid places. Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is easily grown from seeds. Seeds should be sown when fresh and seedlings can be transplanted. It can also be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing,

NOTES

Some Botanists put the Dombeya in the Byttneriaceae and the Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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