PLANT FACT SHEET

Searsia natalensis (Bernh. ex Krauss) F. A. Barkley

GENUS *Searsia* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Natal rhus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark - tea, Seeds, Roots - flavour, Leaves

The green and the ripe fruit are eaten fresh. It is squeezed between the hands before eating.
The roots are used in soup.
The tender shoots and leaves are chewed.
The bark is used to make tea.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows to 6 m tall. The branches are rough and grey. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaves are leathery. They are a darker green on the upper surface than the lower surface. The leaflets are oblong and narrowing to the base. The tip is notched or bluntly pointed. The central leaflet is up to 9 cm long and 4 cm wide. Young leaves are a red colour. The flowers are small and greenish-white. They occur in branched bunches in the axils of leaves. The fruit are small, round or somewhat flattened and yellow-brown when ripe. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and the highlands. It grows on coastal sand dunes, in dune forest and in open woodland. In East Africa it grows from sea level to 3,000 m altitude. It is mostly between 1,600-2,400 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are collected in the dry season.

NOTES

There are about 200 Rhus species.

REFERENCES

Abdella, M., et al, 2023, Assessment of Wild Edible Plant Species in East Hararghe Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia. International Journal of Science, Technology and Society 2023; 11(3): 81-94 (As Rhus natalensis)

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 (As Rhus natalensis)

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 (As Rhus natalensis)

Alemayehu, G., et al, 2015, Plant diversity and ethnobotany in Berehet District, North Shewa Zone of Amhara Region (Ethiopia) with emphasis on wild edible plants. Journal of Medicinal Plants Studies 2015; 3(6): 93-105 (As Rhus natalensis)

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 (As Rhus natalensis)

Balemie, K., & Kebebew, F., 2006, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Derashe and Kucha Districts, South Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 2:53 (As Rhus natalensis)

Bekele-Tesemma A., Birnie, A., & Tengnas, B., 1993, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Ethiopia. Regional Soil Conservation Unit. Technical Handbook No 5. p 390 (As Rhus natalensis)

Biri, A., et al, 2024, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Arsi Robe district of East Arsi Zone, Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 20:70

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 1. Kew. (As Rhus natalensis)

Bussman, R. W., 2006, Ethnobotanyof the Samburu of Mt Nyiru, South Turkana, Kenya. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 2:35 (As Rhus natalensis)

Dale, I. R. and Greenway, P. J., 1961, Kenya Trees and Shrubs. Nairobi. p 28 (As Rhus natalensis)

Demise, S. & Asfaw, Z., 2020, Ethno Botanical Study of Wild Edible Plants in Adola District, Southern, Ethiopia. International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (IJRAR) 7(2). (As Rhus natalensis)

Dharani, N., 2002, Field Guide to common Trees & Shrubs of East Africa. Struik. p 258 (As Rhus natalensis)

Emire, A., et al, 2021, Ethnobotanical Study of Wild Edible Fruit Tree and Shrub Species in Adola Rede and Odo Shakiso Midland Districts of Guji Zone, Southern Ethiopia. Int. J. Adv. Res. Biol. Sci. (2021). 8(12): 96-109 (As Rhus natalensis)

Emire, A., et al, 2022, Ethnobotanical Study of Wild Edible Plants in Liben and Wadera Districts of Guji Zone, Southern Ethiopia. Global Journal of Agricultural Research Vol.10, No.3, pp. 47-65 (As Rhus natalensis)

Ethiopia: Famine Food Field Guide. http://www.africa.upenn.edu/faminefood/category3.htm (As Rhus natalensis)

Feyssa, D. H., et al, 2011, Seasonal availability an consumption of wild edible plants in semiarid Ethiopia; Implications to food security and climate change adaptation. Journal of Horticulture and Forestry 3(5): 138-149 (As Rhus natalensis)

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 8(As Rhus natalensis)

Fox, F. W. & Young, M. E. N., 1982, Food from the Veld. Delta Books. p 78 (As Rhus natalensis)

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

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 (As Rhus natalensis)

Glover et al, 1966b, (As Rhus natalensis)

Goode, P., 1989, Edible Plants of Uganda. FAO p 27 (As Rhus natalensis)

Grivetti, L. E., 1980, Agricultural development: present and potential role of edible wild plants. Part 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, Report to the Department of State Agency for International Development. p 43, 44 (As Rhus natalensis)

Herb., E. A., 1981, (As Rhus natalensis)

http://www.fao.org/forestry/25323-096344a3de335832e8f363c3ac5184a66.pdf (As Rhus natalensis)

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 158 (As Rhus natalensis)

Johns, T., and Kokwaro, J.O., 1991, Food Plants of the Luo of Siayo District, Kenya. Economic Botany 45(1), pp 103-113 (As Rhus natalensis)

Johns, T., Mhoro, E. B. and Sanaya, P., 1996, Food Plants and Masticants of the Batemi of Ngorongoro District, Tanzania. Economic Botany, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 115-121 (As Rhus natalensis)

Kebebew, M. & Leta, G., 2016, Wild Edible Plant Bio-diversity and Utilization System in Nech Sar National Park, Ethiopia. International Journal of Bio-resource and Stress Management 2016, 7(4):885-896 (As Rhus natalensis)

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 (As Rhus natalensis)

Full reference list (38 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/377f9774-28c5-48d0-9770-32e6013bbcca

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/377f9774-28c5-48d0-9770-32e6013bbcca