PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Bersama abyssinica Fresen.

GENUS *Bersama* **FAMILY** Francoaceae

COMMON NAMES Winged bersama

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Fruit

Caution: The roots are poisonous and can kill. The fruit and leaves also contain poisonous compounds.
The leaves are used as a flavouring in relishes and chutneys.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 22 m high. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. There are 5-10 pairs of leaflets and one at the end. The central stalk has wings. It can flower when only 3 m high. The flowers are in spike like groups. They are green to cream. The flowers have a scent. There are some subspecies. The fruit is a round velvety capsule. It splits into 4 valves. The seeds are bright red.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It grows near the edges of forests. It can grow in arid places. In Nigeria it is recorded up to 1,500 m above sea level

NOTES

There are 7 Bersama species.
Also put in the family Francoaceae.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/378e3397-607e-4a6c-aa8c-5b12f817c5f7