PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Cassine aethiopica* Thunb.

**GENUS** *Cassine* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

**COMMON NAMES** Cape cherry, Kooboo-berry

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

The fruit is eaten. It is sweet.
In Kenya the ripened fruit is mixed with porridge or gruel and with the white liquor from crushed, cooked maize.

## DESCRIPTION

A slender tree. It has many branches. It can be 12-20 m tall. The trunk can be 60 cm across. The bark is rough and dark. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are leathery. They are 1.3-13 cm long by 0.8-6 cm wide. The shape varies. The leaf stalks are often yellow and 6 mm long. The flowers are small and yellow. They are produced in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit is fleshy with one stone inside. They are 0.8-2.5 cm long and oval. They are deep pink or red when ripe. There is one seed. The fruit is edible.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow under a range of conditions. It can be in arid scrub or swamp forest. It grows in savanna. It also occurs in rainforest. It suits humid locations. In Malawi it grows from 750-2,450 m altitude.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow fairly quickly.

## NOTES

There are 80 Cassine species. Most are in Africa. The Celastraceae are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

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