PLANT FACT SHEET

Mimusops caffra E. Mey. ex A. DC.

GENUS *Mimusops* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Coastal red milkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. They are sweet. They can also be made into a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. They can be 15-30 m tall. The branches are spreading. The trunk is 60 cm across. The bark is rough and cracked. Young plant parts have red hairs. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are leathery and narrow to the base. They are 1.3-7 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. The edges roll under. They are grey-green above and paler underneath. The leaf stalks are 0.6-1.3 cm long. The flower buds are grouped in the axils of leaves. They are on long, curved, red, hairy stalks. The flowers are white and like stars. The fruit are 1.5-2 cm long and round. They are red when ripe. The pulp is starchy and sweet. The fruit are edible. There is one oval shiny brown seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to South Africa. They often grow along the seashore. It is very wind resistant.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

A fruit weighs about 2 g.

NOTES

There are 55 Mimusops species.

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