PLANT FACT SHEET

Entada elephantina (Burch.) S.A.O'Donnell & G.P.Lewis

GENUS *Entada* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf elephant root, Eland's bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - coffee, Fruit, Leaves

The pods are burnt and used as a coffee substitute. The roasted beans are used for coffee.
The young leaves are used to make a relish.

DESCRIPTION

A low shrub. It has a large woody rootstock. Several leafy shoots arise from this each year. They can be 1 m high. The leaves are twice divided. They can be 15 cm long. There are 10 pairs of pinnae and 40 pairs of leaflets. These are 5 mm long by 1 mm wide. They are pointed. The flower spikes arise from near the base of the shoots. They are erect and 8 cm long with many flowers. They are cream or white. The fruit is woody and flattened.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in shrubland and grassland. It grows between 250-1,800 m above sea level. In Swaziland it is in the high veld only. It grows in areas with a rainfall above 200 mm. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

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