PLANT FACT SHEET

Oncoba tettensis var. kirkii (Oliv.) S. Hul & Breteler

GENUS *Oncoba* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Northern African dog-rose

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The pulp of the ripe fruit is eaten raw. The seeds are discarded.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 1-5 m tall. The bark is grey with long grooves. The leaves are alternate and clustered onto side shoots. They are a wide oval shape. They are 6-11 cm long and wider at the tip. The flowers appear just after the new leaves. They can appear in groups of 1-3 in the axils of leaves or at the ends of small branches. They have a sweet scent. The fruit is an oval or round capsule. It is black and 3-4 cm across. It has a hard pointed tip. The seeds are yellow to brown.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowland. In Tanzania it grows between sea level to 600 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania the ripe fruit are collected from November to January.

NOTES

It has been put in the family Flacourtiaceae and Salicaceae.

REFERENCES

Ruffo, C. K., Birnie, A. & Tengnas, B., 2002, Edible Wild Plants of Tanzania. RELMA p 730 (As Xylotheca tettensis var. kirkii)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/3fd8cabf-90c4-4acb-8c2b-d060bfba4e1c