



PLANT FACT SHEET

Combretum nigricans var. elliotii Guill. & Perr., (Engl. & Diels)

Aubrev.

GENUS *Combretum* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Leaves - tea

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 10 m high. The trunk is 1 m around. The bark is smooth. The trunk is often twisted. The variety *elliotii* occurs between Senegal and Nigeria and variety *nigricans* in Senegal and Gambia. The bark yields a yellow, white or red-brown gum in the dry season. The leaves are opposite and taper to the tip. They are narrowly oval and 7 cm long by 3 cm wide. The leaves are slightly hairy. The flowers are greenish-white. They are in the axils of leaves along stalks 3-5 cm long. The fruit are reddish and have 4 wings.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in savannah and near forests in dry regions. It grows in the Sahel. It grows on poor soils. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 255 *Combretum* species.

REFERENCES

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