PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora neglecta Verdoorn

GENUS *Commiphora* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet-root commiphora

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Leaves

The skin of the roots is removed then the roots eaten like sugarcane. They are sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A slender tree. It grows up to 5 m tall. The stem is thick and greenish. The bark peels in small thin papery flakes. The branches often droop. They are slightly hairy when young and have spines at the tip. The leaves are composed of three leaflets. The leaves have a smell of resin when crushed. The leaflets are egg shaped and vary in size. The end leaflet is the largest. The leaflets narrow towards the base. The leaves are shiny and can be bright green or grey-green. The midrib is yellow and raised underneath the leaf. Leaves can be 7.5 cm long and 5 cm wide. The leaflets do not have stalks but the leaves have long slender stalks. The flowers grow on short side shoot. They flowers are small. The fruit are round or oval and about 1.3 cm across. They are green but turn red as they ripen and split to show the seed inside. There is a fleshy layer around the seed which has 4 wing like arms.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on sandy flats and amongst rocks on hot slopes. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 500-700 mm per year. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 165 Commiphora species.

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