PLANT FACT SHEET

Canthium inerme (L.f) Kuntze

GENUS *Canthium* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Turkey-berry, Raisin-fruited canthium

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Bark

The bark, fruit and seeds are all eaten as snacks.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It can grow 10 m high. The bark is dark grey and smooth. The branches are upright. They are waxy with wrinkles long their length and armed with spines. The leaves are oblong and 2.5-7.5 cm long by 1-3.8 cm wide. They have a thin texture. They are light green above and paler underneath. The edges are rolled under. The leaf stalk is 8-12 mm long. The flowers are very small and greenish. They have a slight scent. The flowers occur in many branched heads in the axils of leaves. These are 1.5-3 cm across. The fruit are oval and 1.3 cm long. They are dark brown when mature. They are slightly wrinkled.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in patches in evergreen forest. It can also be in coastal dunes and in high altitude grassland among rocks. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 2,150 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 200 Canthium species.

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