PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros natalensis (Harv.) Brenan

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Small-leaved jackal-berry, Acorn diospyros

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A evergreen shrub or small tree. It is much branched. It grows to 6-15 m high. The bark is pale grey and smooth. The leaves are produced horizontally along the slender branches. They are oval and 1-3.6 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. They are glossy dark green above and paler green underneath. The flowers are small and white. They occur either singly or in 2 or 3 flowered heads in the axils of leaves. These are 7 mm long. The fruit are like small acorns. They are slender and 1.2 cm long by 0.6 cm wide. They have sharp tips. They are yellow when mature. The cup covers about half the fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in dune forest along the coast. It can be on the edges of streams and evergreen forest. It grows in stony or gravelly soils. It grows from sea level to 1,600 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

REFERENCES

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 24

INFOODS:FAO/INFOODS Databases

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 133

Liengme, C. A., 1981, Plants used by the Tsonga people of Gazankulu. Bothalia 13, 3 & 4: 501-518

Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 8:501. 1954

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Pakia, M., 2000, Plant Ecology and Ethnobotany of two sacred forests (Kayas) at the Kenya Coast. M. Sc. Thesis.

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 748

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 52

Wehmeyer, A. S, 1986, Edible Wild Plants of Southern Africa. Data on the Nutrient Contents of over 300 species

Welcome, A. K. & Van Wyk, B.-E., 2019, An inventory and analysis of the food plants of southern Africa. South African Journal of Botany 122 (2019) 136–179

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 225

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/505ea936-cc2f-4978-82a5-6a4669b98e66