PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora schimperi (Berg.) Engl.

GENUS *Commiphora* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Glossy-leaved corkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Resin, Roots, Bark - tea, Shoots

The roots are chewed for their sweet taste.
The resin exuded by the bark is chewed.
The inner red dark is used in tea.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub. It loses is leaves. It grows 5 m high. The bark is reddish brown and peels off in rolling strips. The branches have spines at the tips. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The central leaflet is 3.5 cm long. The side leaflets are smaller. The flowers are in small clusters in the axils of leaves. They are red and cup shaped. The fruit are oval and 1.3 cm long. They split to reveal black seeds. These are surrounded by a bright red covering.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Kenya it grows between 400-1,900 m altitude. It grows on well-drained dry soils that can be sandy or have clay. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from stem cuttings. It is grown as a hedge plant.

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