PLANT FACT SHEET

Zanha africana (Radlk.) Exell

GENUS *Zanha* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Velvet-fruited zanha

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit, Leaves

The fruit have been eaten after boiling.
CAUTION: They contains saponins and have been reported to be poisonous. They cause diarrhoea if eaten in large quantities.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows up to 10 m high. The bark is dark brown, scaly and flaky. The leaves have 3-5 pairs of leaflets. They are oval and 4-8 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are leathery with net veins. The flowers are small. They are sweetly scented. They are in heads about 2 cm across. The fruit are oval and 3 cm long by 2 cm wide. They are velvety and fleshy. They are bright orange when mature.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs at medium to low altitudes. It grows in the lowlands. It grows in open woodland and among rocks. It grows between 300-1,800 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It grows in Miombo woodland.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds.

NOTES

There are 3 Zanha species. They are in Africa and Madagascar.

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