PLANT FACT SHEET

Cleistochlamys kirkii (Benth.) Oliver

GENUS *Cleistochlamys* **FAMILY** Annonaceae

COMMON NAMES Purple cluster pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten. They are also used to make a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It is often very branched and straggly. It grows 9 m tall. The bark is tough and light brown. The leaves are alternate. They are in 2 rows. They are simple and oblong. They are 6-11 cm long by 2-3.5 cm wide. They are bright shiny green above and paler underneath. They often have notches along the edge. The flowers are of both sexes. The flowers are creamy white and 1.2 cm across. There are reddish-brown bracts below the flower. The fruit have 10 separate carpels and are 2.5 cm long by 1 cm wide. They are purplish-black when ripe. They are succulent.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in bush and thickets in hot dry river valleys. It can grow in arid places. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 900 m above sea level.

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