PLANT FACT SHEET

Melianthus major Linn.

GENUS *Melianthus* **FAMILY** Francoaceae

COMMON NAMES Honey-flower

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: flower - nectar

The honey-like nectar of the flower is collected and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1.8-3 m high. It has hollow thick stems. They grow from ground level with a few side branches. The leaves are large and have leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 50 cm long and with 17 oval leaflets. The flowers are dark brown. They are in long, erect stalks. The fruit are black.

HABITAT

It grows in warm temperate places. It can grow in sun or light shade. It can tolerate drought. It is native to hilly grasslands of South Africa. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

NOTES

There are 6 Melianthus species. They occur in South Africa.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/5da7da64-ea77-4593-8752-a431cac5aa7b