PLANT FACT SHEET

Combretum paniculatum Vent.

GENUS *Combretum* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES Flame combretum, Burning-bush combretum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, flower - nectar, Flowers, Stem sap, Vegetable

The leaves are added to soups and as a potherb. Also the flowers.
The stem sap is used as a drink.

DESCRIPTION

It is usually a vigorous climber or scrambling bush. It can be a small tree 3-4 m high. The bark is grey to pale brown. The leaves are opposite and oval. They are 18 cm long by 9.5 cm wide. They are thinly leathery. They are glossy dark green but paler underneath. The veins are yellow and like a net. The base has shallow lobes. The leaf stalk is 3 cm long. The flowers are bright red with very red stamens. The petals are 2.5 mm across. The flowers are in small clusters but the large number along the stem create a showy display. The fruit are 4 winged. They are 2 cm across. They are pink or red when young and dry to a pale brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in areas of high rainfall on the edges of evergreen forest. It also grows in savannah woodland. In Malawi it grows between 600-1,600 m altitude. It is damaged by drought and frost. It can tolerate flooding. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown by seeds or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 255 Combretum species.

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