PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Croton macrostachyus* Hochst. ex Delile

**GENUS** *Croton* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Broad-leaved croton

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Spice, Shoots, Leaves

Caution: Seeds are poisonous.
The young shoots are cooked and eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 25 m high. It loses its leaves for a short time. The crown is rounded and open with spreading branches. The bark is pale grey and finely cracked. The leaves are large and green. They turn orange before they fall. They are oval with a rounded base and taper to the tip. There can be teeth along the edge. The leaves are 5-19 cm long by 4015 cm wide. The leaves are on long stalks crowded at the ends of small branches. The flowers are yellow to white and have a sweet scent. The male and female flowers are on separate shoots. They are in erect spikes. The male flowering shoots are 25 cm long. The female shoots are 10 cm long. The fruit are green when young. They are on drooping spikes 10 cm long. They have 3 lobes.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near the edges of forests and in gaps in the forests. In Malawi it grows from about 1,000-2,250 m altitude.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Seeds germinate in 30-60 days.

## NOTES

Probably edible.
The leaves are used as fodder for animals.

## REFERENCES


Berihun, T. & Molla, E., 2017, Study on the Diversity and Use of Wild Edible Plants in Bullen District Northwest Ethiopia. Hindawi Journal of Botany. Article ID 8383468

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 25

Molla, A., Ethiopian Plant Names. http://www.ethiopic.com/aplants.htm

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 248

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

**LICENCE** CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6708a407-a182-4e2f-897d-64de5615e799