PLANT FACT SHEET

Maerua parvifolia Pax

GENUS *Maerua* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Dwarf cherry-bush, Small-leaved maerua

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Fruit

The root is used as a substitute for chicory.
The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 2 m tall. The branches are stiff and rigid. There can be hairs. The leaves are alternate on short side branches. The leaf is simple and up to 1,5 cm long by 0.5 cm wide. They are narrowly oval. The flowers occur singly or in pairs on short side shoots. The fruit are 4.5 cm long by 0.7 cm wide. They are hairy. They hang down and are constricted between the seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in drier types of woodland. It also grows on termite mounds. It grows from low altitude up to 1,200 m altitude. It grows in areas with a rainfall of between 100-350 mm per year. It grows in areas with a dry season of 8-11 months. It re-grows after fire. It can grow in arid places.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/6732650c-d724-411b-b62e-5fc2d2bd30ea