PLANT FACT SHEET

Sambucus africana Standl.

GENUS *Sambucus* **FAMILY** Viburnaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows up to 1-2 m high. It can grow 5 m high in warmer zones. The stem is juicy at first but then becomes woody. It is hollow or has a soft pith. The young shoots are hairy. The leaves have 6-11 leaflets along a 75 cm leaf. The leaflets are large with teeth along the edge. The leaflets are 12 cm long by 4 cm wide. One side of the leaflet is attached to the leaf stalk lower than the other. The leaf stalk is 12 cm long and with a leafy stipule at the base. The flowers are small and white. They are in a flattened head 7-15 cm across. The fruit is a small purple-black berry. It is edible. The berry is 7 mm across and ribbed. It contains 3-4 hard red seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in East Africa. It grows in upland grassland.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. Seeds can be collected of plants when mature. Seed sould be sown as soon as it is collected.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are fast growing. They can be pruned and trimmed.

NOTES

There are about 25 Sambucus species. This has now been reduced to 9 species and some subspecies. Also put in the family Sambucaceae.

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