PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhaphiostylis beninensis (Hook. f. ex Hook.) Planch. ex Benth.

GENUS *Rhaphiostylis* **FAMILY** Icacinaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves

DESCRIPTION

A twining shrub. It grows 2 m tall but can grow to a tree 10 m tall. It can be a woody climber. The bark is smooth and dark grey. Young branches are dark purple. The leaf blade is 7-15 cm long by 3-6 cm wide. It is dark glossy green but paler underneath. It is narrowly sword shaped. Many flowers occur in a group. They have a sweet scent. The petals are white. The fruit is wrinkled. It is red when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in closed forest in West Africa. It is common on sandy loam. It grows in forests along river banks. In Nigeria it is recorded at about 1,400 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Central African Republic flowers have been recorded in January.

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