PLANT FACT SHEET

Psorospermum febrifugum Spach

GENUS *Psorospermum* **FAMILY** Hypericaceae

COMMON NAMES Christmas bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4 m high. It has many branches. The bark is often corky and peels off. The stems can be round and smooth or angular and hairy. The leaves are leathery. The fall off during the year. The leaf blade is 11 cm long by 8 cm wide but is often much smaller. They have a rusty coating underneath. The flowering shoots are on the ends of branches. The petals are white with dark red streaks. The fruit is a bright red berry. It is 10 mm across. The seeds are 5 mm long. The plant is very variable.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in savannah in West Africa. It grows in open deciduous woodland. It grows between 15-1,950 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected in November and December. In Central African Republic fruit have been recorded in July.

NOTES

Also put in the family Clusiaceae.

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