PLANT FACT SHEET

Mimusops kummel Bruce ex A. DC.

GENUS *Mimusops* **FAMILY** Sapotaceae

COMMON NAMES Red milkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Bark - tea, Leaves, Seeds

The ripe fruit is eaten raw. Unripe fruit are buried in the soil until ripe.
The inner bark is used for tea.
The young leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It can grow to 35 m tall. The trunk can be 1 m across. The crown of the tree is leafy and oval. The bark is dark grey, rough and deeply grooved. The small branches have red brown hairs. The leaves are oval and 10 cm long. The tip is blunt. The midrib under the leaf is hairy. The leaf stalk is 15 mm long. The flowers are creamy white. They occur as 1-4 flowers together in the axils of the leaves. They are on stalks 2-5 cm long. The flowers have a smell. The fruit is fleshy with a stone containing a kernel. It is 2 cm across. The fruit is orange-yellow and pointed. It contains one red brown seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows near rivers and in dry evergreen forest in Africa. It prefers a dry climate. In Tanzania it grows between 500-2,100 m above sea level. It occurs across the Sahara.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It is best to remove the outer coat to release the seed. Plants can be pruned or topped. Seeds germinate after 18-45 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania ripe fruit are available from October to December. The dried fruit can be stored for several months.

NOTES

There are 55 Mimusops species.

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