PLANT FACT SHEET

Harrisonia abyssinica Oliv.

GENUS *Harrisonia* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Roots

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. It can be climbing. It grows 6 m high The larger branches have thorns 2 cm long. These are on cone shaped corky growths. The branches are long and flexible. The leaves are alternate and compound. They have 2-7 pairs of leaflets and one at the end. The leaves are 25 cm long. The leaflets are almost round and 1-9 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. They are unequal at the base. There can be teeth along the edge. The flowers contain both sexes. They are grouped on shoots 2-14 cm long in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit have 4-8 lobes and are a berry. They are 4-9 mm across. They turn red or black when ripe. They are fleshy and have 4-8 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in dry evergreen forest. It grows from sea level to 1,700 m altitude. It can form dense thickets on poor eroded soils. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 150-2,000 mm per year.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or stem cuttings. Stem cuttings root easily when treated with rooting hormone.

NOTES

There are 3 Harrisonia species. The roots are used in medicine. Also put in the family Simaroubaceae.

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