PLANT FACT SHEET

Gaertnera paniculata Benth.

GENUS *Gaertnera* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Roots, Leaves, Vegetable

The young tender shoots and roots are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A straggling shrub or small tree. It grows 8-18 m high. It has branches low down. The stems are slightly hairy when young. The leaves are 8-18 cm long by 3-8 cm wide. They are narrowly oval and taper to the tip. They are thinly leathery. The flowers are greenish white. They are in large loose groups 7-30 cm long. They have a sweet scent. The fruit is juicy and purple or blue coloured. They are 9 mm long by 6 mm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in moist deciduous forests in West Africa. It grows between 1,200-1,450 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seed need to be sown while fresh.

NOTES

There are about 30-70 Gaertnera species.

REFERENCES

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 4. Kew.

Chapman, J. D. & Chapman, H. M., 2001, The Forest Flora of Taraba and Andamawa States, Nigeria. WWF & University of Canterbury. p 197

Flora Zambesiaca. http://apps.kew.org/efloras

Grubben, G. J. H. and Denton, O. A. (eds), 2004, Plant Resources of Tropical Africa 2. Vegetables. PROTA, Wageningen, Netherlands. p 562

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 79

Latham, P., 2004, Useful Plants of Bas-Congo province. Salvation Army & DFID p 133

Schatz, G.E., 2001, Generic Tree Flora of Madagascar. Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and Missouri Botanical Garden. p 330 (Genus)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/786dcbc4-eb1a-4b2f-ba2d-ebe319ae49c9