PLANT FACT SHEET

Gymnosporia arbutifolia (Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Loes

GENUS *Gymnosporia* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable, Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.
The young leaves are boiled and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1-8 m tall. It has spines up to 7 cm long. The branches are flattened and angular and have reddish-brown hairs when young. The leaves are dark green above and more pale underneath. The shape varies but can be narrowly oval and 1-9 cm long by 0.4-4 cm wide. There are shallow teeth along the edge. The flower petals can be white, cream or greenish. The fruit is a greenish purple and turns red at maturity. They are 0.4-0.8 cm long by 0.4-0.6 cm wide. There are 3 valves and 3 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It can grow in savannah.

REFERENCES

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

Yimer, A., et al, 2021, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants used by Meinit Ethnic Community at Bench-Maji Zone, Southwest Ethiopia. Research Square. p 5 (As Maytenus arbutifolia)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/78c06f93-4331-45dd-8b90-37e482cd413d