PLANT FACT SHEET

Rubus apetalus Poir.

GENUS *Rubus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are also used for jam and juice.

DESCRIPTION

A scrambling shrub. It grows 1.5 m high. The flowering branches have a few yellow or white hairs. The prickles are slender and curved. The leaves are 7-16 cm long by 6-13 cm wide. They have teeth along the edge. The fruit are round and 0.5-0.8 cm long. They are purplish-black. They are edible when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in hilly and mountain regions near forests in West Africa. It grows along the edges of forests. In Kenya it grows between 1,450-2,700 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be used as a hedge. Plants can be grow by seeds or suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Ripe fruit are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are about 250 Rubus species.

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