PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassinopsis ilicifolia (Hochst.) Kuntze

GENUS *Cassinopsis* **FAMILY** Icacinaceae

COMMON NAMES Lemon thorn, Spiny cassinopsis

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are edible.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen scrambling shrub. It grows 4 m high and spreads 4 m wide. The branches are slender and flexible and are alternate. They can be trailing and they have a zigzag pattern. There are spines on the stems. These are straight and can be 2.5 cm long. The leaves are green and shiny above but dull green underneath. The flowers are cream or white and star shaped. They are 2 mm across. They are in clusters opposite the spines. The fruit are fleshy and slightly flattened. They are bright orange-red when ripe. They are 13 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in mountain forest. It grows in moist well-drained places. It can tolerate frost and drought. It can grow in sun or shade. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds. Seeds germinate easily. Seedlings can be transplanted at the one leaf stage.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quite fast.

NOTES

There are 4 Cassinopsis species. They grow in southern Africa.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7ae4829b-ab40-42e8-8025-cfabf499463a