PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Cephalanthus natalensis* Oliv.

**GENUS** *Cephalanthus* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Quinine berry, Tree strawberry

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Leaves, Flowers

The fruit are eaten fresh. They are bitter-sweet. They become more bitter with storage.
They are also made into conserve.
The flowers are eaten as a snack.

## DESCRIPTION

It can be a shrub or climber or small tree. It is evergreen. The stem can be 20 cm across. The leaves are dark green and shiny. They are 1.3-3.8 cm long and egg shaped but often broadest below the middle. The have a blunt point with a long jutting tip. The edges of the leaves are often rolled inwards. The flowers are small and red or greenish-white. They form tubes. They are 2.5 cm across. They occur at the ends of twigs. The fruit are made up of many small fruitlets packed into a round head. They turn pink or red when ripe. They are edible.

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It often grows among rocks. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

## NOTES

There are 10 Cephalanthus species.

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