PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhipsalis baccifera (J. Mill.) Stearn

GENUS *Rhipsalis* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Hairy mistletoe cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Stem

The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It has many branches and grows attached to other plants and hangs down. It is 1-3 m long. The stems are slender and succulent. They are pale green. It does not have leaves but can have small scale leaves. The flowers are small and white or pale yellow. The fruit are small berries. They can be white, pink or red. They have several small black seeds. The fruit are produced in great numbers. They are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow in shade. It needs well-drained soil. In Malawi it grows in lowland and mid-altitude rainforest. It suits humid locations. It has been recorded from 850-1,450 m altitude. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds and cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 40 Rhipsalis species. Plants can have 2, 4 or 8 sets of chromosomes.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Chapman, J. D. & Chapman, H. M., 2001, The Forest Flora of Taraba and Andamawa States, Nigeria. WWF & University of Canterbury. p 169

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 66 (As Rhipsalis cassutha)

Fruct. sem. pl. 1:137, t. 28, fig. 1. 1788 "cassutha"

Grivetti, L. E., 1980, Agricultural development: present and potential role of edible wild plants. Part 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, Report to the Department of State Agency for International Development. p 44

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 742

Piedra-Malagón, E. M. et al, 2022, Edible native plants of the Gulf of Mexico Province. Biodiversity Data Journal 10: e80565 p 16

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 41

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 1042

Welcome, A. K. & Van Wyk, B.-E., 2019, An inventory and analysis of the food plants of southern Africa. South African Journal of Botany 122 (2019) 136–179

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 177

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/8170e60d-9b02-42f3-a80a-1231252d8472