PLANT FACT SHEET

**Use with caution**

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

# *Rhoicissus tridentata* (L. f.) Wild & R. B. Drummond

**GENUS** *Rhoicissus* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Droog-my-keel grape, Bitter grape, Bushman's grape

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Roots, Tubers

The fruit is eaten. It is very sour.
The large thickened rootstock is edible. It is used for drinks and put into soups.
Caution: The tubers are also claimed to be toxic.

## DESCRIPTION

It is a small neat tree. It grows to 3.6 m high. It can be a climber. It has a very extensive root system with a thickened rootstock or swellings along it. It may have many stems. The young branches are covered with rust-coloured hairs. It has tendrils. The leaves vary greatly in size and shape. They have 3 rigid leaflets. Leaves can be 10 cm long and 7 cm wide. The central leaflet is often triangular. The side leaflets are unequal-sided. Leaflets are glossy green above and paler underneath. The flowers are small and greenish. They occur in clusters opposite the leaves. The fruit is 1.3 cm across. They are smooth and round. They are black when mature. There are 1-2 seeds inside. The fruit is edible.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. In South Africa it grows from sea level to 1200 m altitude. In some places it can grow to 2,700 m above sea level. It will grow in a range of conditions. It is often at the edge of evergreen forest in high rainfall areas. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 380-1,500 mm. It can grow in arid places.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or cuttings.

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