PLANT FACT SHEET

Rothmannia engleriana (K. Schum.) Keay

GENUS *Rothmannia* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The ripe fruit pulp is juicy and edible. The hard outer case is broken to remove the soft pulp.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 2-8 m tall. The young branches can have hairs. The bark is cracked and reddish on older branches. The leaf blades are 10-30 cm long by 4-15 cm wide. They are oval. They are leathery. The flowers are in clusters and hang from the ends of the branches. There are 3-17 flowers in a group and they have a sweet scent. The flower petals are white with purple spots on the throat. The fruit is 2-5 cm long and round. They are rust coloured. The seeds are brown and 7 mm long by 5 mm wide and 1 mm thick.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and the highlands. It grows in dry woodland. It is often on rocky hills. It grows between 550-1,770 m altitude. In Tanzania it grows between 1,100-1,900 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania ripe fruit are collected from July to September.

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