PLANT FACT SHEET

Scolopia zeyheri (Nees) Szyszyl.

GENUS *Scolopia* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Thorn pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are fleshy and eaten raw. They are sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A spiny shrub or small tree. It can grow to 7 m tall. The bark is light grey and smooth. It becomes dark with age and rough and peeling in flakes. There are usually spines on the small branches. The leaves vary in shape. The can be sword shaped or round. They are 2-8 cm long by 1-3.5 cm wide. The are leathery and dark green above but paler underneath. The flowers are small and white or yellow. The fruit is almost round and a berry. It has a style at the tip. It is about 5-10 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from sea level to 2,400 m altitude in South Africa. It is on the edge of evergreen forest and in open woodland. It grows in rocky and sandy soil. It is often on termite mounds. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Fruit are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

Also put in the Flacourtiaceae family.

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