PLANT FACT SHEET

Psydrax obovata (Klotzsch ex Eckl. & Zeyh.) Bridson

GENUS *Psydrax* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Mountain Quar, Black alder, Pioneer canthium, Quar

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It can be a shrub or grow to 15 m tall. In coastal sand dunes it is gnarled and twisted. It can have a stem up to 46 cm across. Old trunks are black, rough and ribbed. The leaves are simple and opposite. They are 1.5-5 cm long and sword shaped. The base is narrowed. The edges are rolled inwards. Leaves are dark green and shiny above and paler and duller underneath. The flowers are small and green. They have a sweet scent. They occur in many-flowered bunches in the axils of leaves. The fruit are small and green. They become black when ripe. They are 6 mm across. They have 1-2 seeds. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in coastal and inland forest. On coastal dunes it can be dwarfed and twisted.

NOTES

Var. elliptica in Zimbabwe.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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