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.

# *Cyphostemma currorii* (Hook. f.) Desc.

**GENUS** *Cyphostemma* **FAMILY** Vitaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Kobas, Cobas

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Stems - water

The fruit are eaten. They contain oxalic acid which burns the throat.

## DESCRIPTION

A succulent tree. It has a thick swollen trunk. It grows to 8 m high. It can be 2 m across at the base. It can be divided into a number of stems. The bark peels in papery strips. It loses its leaves in winter. The crown is round. The leaves are compound and fleshy. They are made up of 3 large leaflets. These can be 30 cm long by 18 cm across. The middle leaflets has a short stalk and the other two are stalkless. They are oval and bluntly pointed with a broad unequal base. The edges of the leaves have teeth. Leaflets are often folded together. The leaves are on long thick leaf stalks. The flowers are yellow-green and small. They have 4 petals. They occur in flat spreading heads. The flower group are on long stalks at the ends of branches. The fruit is grape-like. They are juicy and red. They contain oxalic acid which burns the throat.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry stony areas and on rocky hillsides. It is in hot arid places. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

## REFERENCES


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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9161c098-eae8-4dd7-96eb-ef922ab03e88