PLANT FACT SHEET

Cordyla africana Lour.

GENUS *Cordyla* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bush mango, Sunbird tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Flowers - nectar

The fruit are eaten raw and fresh or cooked. Caution: The fruit can cause giddiness.
The nectar if the flower is eaten.
The seeds are dried then eaten.

DESCRIPTION

It is a large tree. It grows up to 22 m tall. The trunk can be 1.2 m across. The branches spread widely. The bark is greyish brown and has furrows along it. The leaves are divided once. They are 25 cm long with about 9-12 pairs of leaflets with one at the end. The leaflets are 2.5-4 cm long. They are dark green and smooth. There are dots which let light through scattered over the leaf surface. The flowers occur in small sprays in the axils of leaves. The flowers face upwards and are filled with nectar. The fruit is a yellow fleshy succulent fruit. It is about 4 cm long and oval. It has a leathery skin and 1-8 seeds inside. The seeds are embedded in the sticky flesh. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

A tropical tree. It grows in low altitudes in hot areas. It is often in swamp forest and along rivers. It grows between 10-900 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Trees can be grown from fresh seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania ripe fruit are collected during November and December.

NOTES

There are 5 Cordyla species. The fruit pulp is rich in Vitamin C.

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