PLANT FACT SHEET

Pithecellobium unguis-cati (L.) Benth.

GENUS *Pithecellobium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Cat's claw, Black bead tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit - pulp

The pulp around the seeds is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub or small tree. It grows 20 m tall. It is very spiny. The trunk can be 1.2 m across. It often has a low branches and a wide crown. The bark is brown and cracked. The leaves are alternate and compound. The leaves are twice divided. There are 4 leaflets about 3-5 cm long. The flowers are white on a spike. The fruit is a pod 5-10 cm long. It is curved or coiled. It splits open when ripe. The seeds are black and shiny with a fleshy aril of layer around them.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry areas. It grows on sand dunes and coastal strands. It can grow up to 450 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. It can be clipped and pruned.

NOTES

Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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