PLANT FACT SHEET

Searsia tomentosa (L.) F. A. Barkley

GENUS *Searsia* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Furry rhus, Bicoloured currant

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is edible but not attractive. It is eaten raw as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows up to 5 m tall. It has many branches. The bark is smooth and grey-brown. The branches have shallow ridges. They have red hairs when young. Older branches are green. The leaves are alternate and have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are 3-9 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. The end leaflet is the largest. They taper to the base. The flowers are in branched groups in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The fruit is round and fleshy. It is 4-6 mm long by 3-4 mm wide. It has a grey covering.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows on rocky mountain slopes. It can grow up to 2,500 m altitude.

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