PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassipourea congoensis R. Br. ex DC.

GENUS *Cassipourea* **FAMILY** Rhizophoraceae

COMMON NAMES Bastard onion wood, Lesser onionwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pulp, seeds - aril

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3-4 m high. It can be 20 m high. The bark is light grey to brown and smooth. It becomes dark grey and rough with age. The trunk is straight and slender. The branches are flat and spread out. The leaves vary in size and shape. They can be oval or round and 2-3 cm long but can also be 14 cm long and narrow. They are light green when young and become dark green and glossy when mature. They are leathery. The side veins are sunken on both surfaces. The edges have slightly hooked teeth. The edges are wavy. The leaf stalk is 8 mm long. The flowers are yellow or green. They are 10 mm across. They occur in tight clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit is a berry-like capsule. It is oval and 10 mm long. There is a thin layer of orange flesh when young. They become black and dry.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows at the edges of and in evergreen forest. It can be in savannah woodland and palm groves. In Zimbabwe it grows between 750-2,200 m above sea level.

NOTES

There are 62 Cassipourea species. There are 8 species in tropical America.

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