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.

Dichapetalum toxicarium (G. Don) Baill.

GENUS *Dichapetalum* **FAMILY** Dichapetalaceae

COMMON NAMES Rat's bane

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit pulp around the seeds is eaten.
Caution: The seed kernels are poisonous. They contain monofluoroacetate.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It grows 16 m tall. It can be a woody climber. The leaves are waxy. They are narrowly oval and 8 cm long by 4 cm wide. They are wedge shaped at the base. The small branches are hairy. The fruit are oval and 4 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the forest under-storey or in secondary bush in West Africa.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Sierra Leone flowering is in April and fruit mature in August and September.

NOTES

The bark can be used to kill rats and mice.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/9ad71ded-698a-4494-a792-54a7891c3273