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 cymosum (Hook.) Engl.

GENUS *Dichapetalum* **FAMILY** Dichapetalaceae

COMMON NAMES Poison leaf

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit pulp is eaten. It has intoxicating effects. The young fruit are roasted.
Caution: The seed is toxic. The skin is also probably poisonous. It is peeled 1 cm thick. The leaves are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A small shrub. It grows 30 cm high. It has branched underground stems. It forms colonies. It loses its leaves during the year. The flowers are small and white. They are in clusters. They have a scent. The fruit are yellow and egg shaped. They have one large seed.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot arid areas with a marked dry season. It grows in stony and sandy soils. In Namibia it grows on deep sands. It needs well-drained soils. It grows between 850-1980 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are 124 Dichapetalum species. There are 86 species in tropical Africa.

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