PLANT FACT SHEET

Chrozophora plicata (Vahl) A. Juss. ex Spreng.

GENUS *Chrozophora* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

COMMON NAMES Giradol

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Petals - dye, Fruit - dye, Sap - dye

The petals, fruit and sap are used to produce red and blue dyes for colouring liqueurs, wine, pastries and cheese.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It can lie along the ground or curve upwards. It grows 50 cm high. It has white or grey hairs. The leaves are triangle shaped and 1-4 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The flowers are opposite the leaves. Male and female flowers are separate. Male flowers are orange-yellow and female flowers are red. The fruit have 3 lobes and are 5 mm long by 9 mm wide. They are reddish-purple when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical or Mediterranean plant. It grows in drier areas but in water-logged areas on riverbanks. It grows up to 200 m altitude. In Zimbabwe it grows to 600 m above sea level.

REFERENCES

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