PLANT FACT SHEET

Oxyanthus speciosus DC.

GENUS *Oxyanthus* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Whip stick afro-loquat

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stem, Fruit

The stem is used as a chewstick.
The leaves are soaked in palm wine to produce a smell and make it more intoxicating.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 4-8 m high. The bark is smooth and the branches hang over. The leaves are oblong and 16 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are shiny. The flowers are white and in groups in the axils of leaves. They have a scent. The fruit are black and shiny. They are 5 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest usually near streams. It suits humid locations. It can be in the lowlands or mountains. In Nigeria it is recorded at 1,830 m above sea level. It grows in gaps exposed to light in the forest.

NOTES

There are about 50 Oxyanthus species. They are tropical and subtropical. Subsp. stenocarpus in Zimbabwe.

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