PLANT FACT SHEET

Curtisia dentata (Burm. f.) C. A. Sm.

GENUS *Curtisia* **FAMILY** Curtisiaceae

COMMON NAMES Assegai tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are bitter but edible.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 8-13 m high. The bark is dark grey and cracks in square patches. Young branches have dense rusty hairs. The leaves are opposite and broadly oval. They are 10 cm long. They are shiny green above and light green with woolly hairs underneath. They have teeth along the edge. They end in a sharp point at the tip. The flowers are in branched heads at the tips of the plant. The fruit are fleshy and 10 mm long by 3-5 mm wide. They turn red when ripe. They have a calyx crown on the top.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In South Africa it grows up to 1,800 m altitude. It often grows in mountain forests and stream gullies.

NOTES

There is only one Curtisia species.
It has also been put in the plant family Cornaceae.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a404d418-e0eb-4f2a-bbe3-e41e6f0769ca