PLANT FACT SHEET

Allophylus africanus P. Beauv.

GENUS *Allophylus* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES African allophylus, African false-raisin

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fleshy layer around the seeds is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 3-5 m high. It can be smooth or hairy. It can be a tree 9-20 m tall. It forms branches low down. The leaves are alternate and have 3 leaflets. The leaf stalk is 7 cm long. The end leaflet can be longer than the side ones. The end leaflet is 15 cm long by 8 cm wide. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are creamy-white. There are a few flowers in a rounded head. They have a sweet scent. The fruit are small round red berries. The fruit are edible. They are 4-6 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows near the edges of forests and along stream banks. It is often on termite mounds. It grows on the north shore of Lake Malawi. In Zimbabwe it grows between 960-1,540 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Often self sown trees are transplanted.

NOTES

There are about 225 Allophyllus species.

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