PLANT FACT SHEET

Tetracera alnifolia Willd.

GENUS *Tetracera* **FAMILY** Dilleniaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Stem sap, Vegetable

The young leaves are eaten as a vegetable.
The sap from the stem is used as a drink.

DESCRIPTION

A creeper or climber with several stems. It can be 20 m long. It can also be a shrubby tree 8 m high. The stems can be 10 cm across. Young stems can have flattened hairs. The leaf blade is 15 cm long by 8 cm wide. It is broadly oval. There are many white flowers in branched clusters at the ends of branches. These are in clusters 20 cm long by 10 cm wide. The fruit are 1 cm long by 0.8 cm wide. They are dull red. There are a few seeds. These are 5 mm across and black and shiny.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in grassland, savannah and on the edges of forests in West Africa. It also grows in forests along rivers. In Nigeria it has been recorded at 1,440 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

NOTES

There are 40 Tetracera species. They occur in the African and Asian tropics. There are 15 species in tropical America.

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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