PLANT FACT SHEET

Pterocarpus angolensis DC.

GENUS *Pterocarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Bloodwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 16 m tall. The bark is dark grey. It has cracks along its length. The leaves are made up of 5-9 almost opposite pairs of leaflets and with one at the end. These are 2.5-7 cm long by 2-4.5 cm wide. The lower surface is hairy. They taper to a point at the tip. The base is rounded. The edges are wavy and tightly rolled under. The flowers are orange-yellow and pea-shaped. They occur in large branched sprays. These are 10-20 cm long. The fruit are a circular pod. The seed case is covered with harsh bristles. There is a broad wavy wing around this. This is up to 3 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in woodland and wooded grassland. It grows up to 1,250 m altitude. In Tanzania it is only between 300-600 m altitude. It can tolerate acid soils. It must be in a frost free area. It grows on well drained soils. In Zimbabwe it grows between 840-1,620 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed, cuttings or budding. Large branch cuttings 2 m long and 10 cm across can be used. It should be in a 1 m deep hole with sand at the bottom to prevent rots and enable roots to form. Plants need wind protection for the first two years. The roots of the tree spread widely.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It can grow 50-70 cm per year.

NOTES

There are about 20 Pterocarpus species. They occur in the tropics. The tree is harvested because of its hard wood.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Baidu-Forson, J.J., et al ,2014,. Assessment of agrobiodiversity resources in the Borotse flood plain, Zambia. CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Penang, Malaysia. Working Paper: AAS-2014-12.

Bosch, C.H., 2004. Pterocarpus mildbraedii Harms. [Internet] Record from Protabase. Grubben, G.J.H. & Denton, O.A. (Editors). PROTA (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa), Wageningen, Netherlands. < http://database.prota.org/search.htm>. Accessed 22 October 2009.

Drummond, R. B., 1981, Common Trees of the Central Watershed Woodlands of Zimbabwe, National Herbarium Salisbury. p 92

Food Composition Tables for use in Africa FAO http://www.fao.org/infoods/directory No. 444

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 39

Lautenschläger, T., et al, 2018, First large-scale ethnobotanical survey in the province of Uíge, northern Angola. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2018) 14:51

Martin, F.W. & Ruberte, R.M., 1979, Edible Leaves of the Tropics. Antillian College Press, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. p 88, 200

Mawunu, M., et al, 2020, First Survey of the Edible Non-Wood Forest Products Sold in Uige Province, Northern Angola. European Journal of Agriculture and Food Sciences. Vol. 2, No. 6

Mbuya, L.P., Msanga, H.P., Ruffo, C.K., Birnie, A & Tengnas, B., 1994, Useful Trees and Shrubs for Tanzania. Regional Soil Conservation Unit. Technical Handbook No 6. p 422

Mokganya, M. G. et al, 2018, An evaluation of additional uses of some wild edible fruit plants of the Vhembe District Municipality in the Limpopo Province, South Africa. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. Vol 17(2) April 2018, pp 276-281

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 321

Prodr. 2:419. 1825

Roodt, V., 1998, Trees & Shrubs of the Okavango Delta. Medicinal Uses and Nutritional value. The Shell Field Guide Series: Part 1. Shell Botswana. p 147

Swaziland's Flora Database http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora

Williamson, J., 2005, Useful Plants of Malawi. 3rd. Edition. Mdadzi Book Trust. p 211

www.zimbabweflora.co.zw 2011

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ae36a57f-cb46-4b21-bf74-506529576a3e