PLANT FACT SHEET

Searsia longipes (Engl.) Moffett

GENUS *Searsia* **FAMILY** Anacardiaceae

COMMON NAMES Large-leaved rhus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

Usually it is a straggling shrub. It can be a small tree. It can grow to 5 m tall. The bark is grey and becomes rough. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are oval and the end one is 4-13 cm long by 1.5-8 cm wide. The side leaflets are three quarters this size. The flowers are small and yellow. They grow in loose heads up to 8 cm long. These can be in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The fruit is 6-7 mm across. They are reddish-brown when mature.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands and the highlands. It grows in open woodland and thicket. It is often along river banks. In Malawi it grows from 700-2,450 m altitude. In Zimbabwe it grows between 1,000-1,680 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows fairly quickly.

NOTES

There are about 200 Rhus species.

REFERENCES

Balemie, K., & Kebebew, F., 2006, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Derashe and Kucha Districts, South Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine. 2:53 (As Rhus longipes)

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 1. Kew. (As Rhus longipes)

Drummond, R. B., 1981, Common Trees of the Central Watershed Woodlands of Zimbabwe, National Herbarium Salisbury. p 120 (As Rhus longipes)

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 7 (As Rhus longipes)

Hahn, K., et al, 2018, The use of wild plants for food: a national scale analysis for Burkina Faso (West Africa). FVSS FoodPlants Supplement (As Rhus longipes)

Herb., E. A., 1981, (As Rhus longipes)

JSTOR Global Plants edible (As Rhus longipes)

Lulekal, E., et al, 2011, Wild edible plants in Ethiopia: a review on their potential to combat food insecurity. Afrika Focus - Vol. 24, No 2. pp 71-121 (As Rhus longipes)

Makonda, F. B. S., & Ruffo, C. K., 2011, Species List. NAFORMA, Tanzania (As Rhus longipes)

Maundu, P. et al, 1999, Traditional Food Plants of Kenya. National Museum of Kenya. 288p (As Rhus longipes)

Maroyi, A., 2011, The Gathering and Consumption of Wild Edible Plants in Nhema Communal Area, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe. Ecology of Food and Nutrition 50:6, 506-525 (As Rhus longipes)

Maroyi, A. & Cheikhyoussef, A., 2017, Traditional knowledge of wild edible fruit in southern Africa: A comparative use patterns in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. 16(3): 385-392

Moffett, R. O., 2007, Name changes in the Old World Rhus and recognition of Searsia (Anacardiaceae). Bothalia 37,2: 165-175 (2007)

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 482 (As Rhus longipes)

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 51 (As Rhus longipes)

Ruffo, C. K., Birnie, A. & Tengnas, B., 2002, Edible Wild Plants of Tanzania. RELMA p 563 (As Rhus longipes)

Tredgold, M.H., 1986, Food Plants of Zimbabwe. Mambo Press. p 118 (As Rhus longipes)

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 123 (As Rhus longipes)

Wild, 1975, (As Rhus longipes)

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

www.zimbabweflora.co.zw 2011 (As Rhus longipes)

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/aee732e7-00b4-40be-81a0-4179c413e645