PLANT FACT SHEET

Combretum mossambicense (Klotzsch) Engl.

GENUS *Combretum* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES Knobbly bushwillow, Shaving-brush combretum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree or a woody climber. It loses its leaves during the year. The flowers usually develop before the leaves. The bark is grey to brown. The small branches are often pale. The leaves are opposite. The leaf blade can be 20 cm long by 11 cm wide. It is often smaller. It is papery to leathery. They are oval and hairy when young. They taper to the tip and are rounded at the base. There is a curved spine on the leaf stalk. The flowers are in spikes in the axils of the leaves. These are 5 cm long. The flowers are pink or white. The fruit have 5 wings and are 2-3 cm long by 2-2.5 cm wide. They are oval and hairy.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in dry shrub savanna. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,200 m above sea level. It grows on termite mounds in hot dry areas. It can grow in arid places.

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