PLANT FACT SHEET

Dalbergia nitidula Baker

GENUS *Dalbergia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Glossy flat-bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The young leaves are chopped, washed, cooked and pounded with peanuts and then eaten with the staple food.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 4-12 m tall. The branches are stiff and erect. The crown is open. The bark is grey brown or reddish. It is rough and cracked. The leaves are compound with 4-7 pairs of leaflets and one at the tip. The leaflets are 2-3 cm long. The flowers are white and appear before the leaves. They occur in dense heads up to 10 cm across. Each flower is small and pea like. The fruit is a flat, thin brown pod. It is 7 cm long by 1.5 cm wide. It has a sharp tip. There are 1-2 seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in deciduous woodland. In Tanzania it grows between 300-1,700 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season.

REFERENCES

Ruffo, C. K., Birnie, A. & Tengnas, B., 2002, Edible Wild Plants of Tanzania. RELMA p 252

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b6e06e21-0385-48d5-974a-e16ca6e79975