PLANT FACT SHEET

Hirtella zanzibarica Oliv.

GENUS *Hirtella* **FAMILY** Chrysobalanaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows up to 20 m high. It has buttresses at the base. The bark is smooth and dark brown. The leaves are simple and alternate. The leaf blade is 12 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are oval and can be wedge shaped at the base and taper to the tip. They are unequal on the sides and slightly hairy underneath. The flowers are in groups in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. They are green to white. The fruit are 2.5 cm long by 1.4 cm wide. (The fruit of Hirtella megacarpa are slightly larger.) There is one seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forest along the edges of rivers. In Kenya it grows near the coast. It grows in the lowlands. It is usually in dry forest.

NOTES

It is also put in the family Rosaceae.

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

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