PLANT FACT SHEET

Balanites orbicularis Sprague

GENUS *Balanites* **FAMILY** Zygophyllaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

Very ripe fruit are eaten.
Unripe fruit and seeds can be eaten after very long boiling.

DESCRIPTION

A thorny bush. It has several stems. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. It grows 2-5 m tall. The bark is grey and becomes rough and furrowed with age. The thorns are very dark green. They are stout, 3 cm long and straight. The leaves occur in pairs. They do not have a leaf stalk. They are rounded to heart shaped and grey green and hairy. The flowers are small. They occur on bunches along the thorns. The fruit are oval and hairy. They are 2 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in arid areas. It can tolerate drought. It grows on a variety of soils. It is often found in sandy river beds.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It is not necessary to treat the seed. Seed can be stored for one year after removing them from the fruit. Seeds can be sown in pots then transplanted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are slow growing.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/bb2e69c8-c8a2-4b9e-af29-db3bfd9d492b