PLANT FACT SHEET

Elaeodendron transvaalense (Burtt Davy) R. H. Archer

GENUS *Elaeodendron* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES Transvaal saffronwood, Three-petalled cassine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small bushy tree. It has several stems. It grows 4-5 m tall. It can reach 10-15 m. Bark is pale grey. It loses many leaves during the year. The trunk is short and often crooked. The crown is round. The leaves are alternate and often clustered on small shoots. They are narrow and oval. They are 2-7 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They have net-veining on both surfaces. They are leathery and greyish-green. The flowers are in clusters in the axils of leaves. They occur as 20-30 flowered heads about 2 cm long. They are small and greenish-white. They have 3 petals. The fruit is fleshy with a stone inside. The fruit are berry like. They are round or oval and taper to both ends. They are 2.5 cm long by 1.8 cm wide. They are yellow to reddish-brown.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in the bushveld often on termite mounds. It grows at medium to low altitude in open woodland. It grows along streams. In Zimbabwe it grows up to 1,520 m above sea level. It grows in areas with a rainfall about 150 mm per year. It grows in areas with a marked dry season. It can tolerate drought. It grows on soils over limestone. It can grow in slightly salty soils. It grows between 200-1,700 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows slowly.

NOTES

This was a Cassine. There are 80 Cassine species. Most are in Africa. The Celastraceae are mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

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