PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Solanum aculeastrum Dunal

GENUS *Solanum* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Goat bitter apple, Poison apple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

CAUTION: The fruit is poisonous. Some edible kinds have been selected.
The fruit are eaten but are bitter.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows to 4 m high. The stem is erect and prickly. The bark is greyish-brown. The leaves are green and with lobes. The leaves are deep green above and white and woolly underneath. The leaves are 4.5-14 cm long by 3-11 cm wide. The flowers are white and star shaped. The fruit are orange to brownish berries. They are 5 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It prefers rich moist soils. It does best in a protected shady position. It is drought and frost tender. It grows naturally in wooded grassland. It grows between 1,050-2,100 m above sea level. In Nigeria it grows to 2,300 m.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 1400 Solanum species. There are about 700 in tropical America and about 100 in Africa.

REFERENCES

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 933

A. L. P. P. de Candolle, Prodr. 13(1):366. 1852

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 5. Kew.

Chapman, J. D. & Chapman, H. M., 2001, The Forest Flora of Taraba and Andamawa States, Nigeria. WWF & University of Canterbury. p 203

Dale, I. R. and Greenway, P. J., 1961, Kenya Trees and Shrubs. Nairobi. p 538

East African Herbarium records, 1981,

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 101

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 820

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 186

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 103

Samuels, J., 2015, Biodiversity of Food Species of the Solanaceae Family: A Preliminary Taxonomic Inventory of Subfamily Solanoideae. Resources 2015, 4. 277-322

Swaziland's Flora Database http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora

von Katja Rembold, 2011, Conservation status of the vascular plants in East African rain forests. Dissertation Universitat Koblenz-Landau p 182

Welcome, A. K. & Van Wyk, B.-E., 2019, An inventory and analysis of the food plants of southern Africa. South African Journal of Botany 122 (2019) 136–179

White, F., Dowsett-Lemaire, F. and Chapman, J. D., 2001, Evergreen Forest Flora of Malawi. Kew. p 553

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

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c0bb7be2-244e-438e-be44-bda052006ce7