PLANT FACT SHEET

Carpobrotus acinaciformis (L.) L. Bolus.

GENUS *Carpobrotus* **FAMILY** Aizoaceae

COMMON NAMES Red Hottentot fig, Giant pigface

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are eaten raw. They are better once dried. They are also used in preserves.

DESCRIPTION

A low succulent shrub which keeps growing from year to year. It is a trailing plant and forms mats. It is woody at the base. The stems are angled and form roots at the nodes. It can be 30 cm high and spread 1 m wide. The leaves are opposite and united at the base. They are 3 angled. They are bluish-green and widest in the middle. The flowers are 11-12 cm across. They are bright purple or purple-red.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It grows on rocky cliffs and sandy places. It will grow in most soils. It is best in a sandy soil and a sunny position. It is resistant to drought but damaged by frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by cuttings or seeds.

NOTES

There are about 25 Carpobrotus species. Also put in the family Mesembryanthemaceae.

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