PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros abyssinica (Hiern) F. White

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant diospyros

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 35 m tall. It keeps its leaves throughout the year. The crown has short branches. The bark is dark grey with fine cracks. The leaves are alternate and narrowly oval. They are 7-12 cm long by 3-4 cm wide. They are shiny dark green. The edges are often wavy. Young leaves are red. The flowers are small and grow in the axils of leaves. They can occur singly or in small clusters. They are creamy white to yellow. They have a scent. The fruit is round and fleshy. It is held in a lobed cup. It is yellowish green and turns blue to black when ripe. It is 1.4 cm long by 1 cm wide. There is usually one seed that is 9 mm long by 6 mm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in evergreen forests. It is recorded between 200-2,500 m above sea level and in areas with an annual rainfall between 650-2050 mm. In drier areas it is usually near streams or on termite mounds that retain moisture.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds are slow to germinate. Trees can be pruned or cut back and allowed to re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It Zimbabwe it flowers from October to January.

REFERENCES

Addis, G., et al, 2013, The Role of Wild and Semi-wild Edible Plants in Household Food Sovereignty in Hamer and Konso Communities, South Ethiopia. Ethnobotany Research & Applications. 11:251-271

Balemie, K., & Kebebew, F., 2006, Ethnobotanical study of wild edible plants in Derashe and Kucha Districts, South Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine.

Duguma, H. T., 2020, Wild Edible Plant Nutritional Contribution and Consumer Perception in Ethiopia. Hindawi International Journal of Food Science Volume 2020, Article ID 2958623, 16 pages

Fassil, A., et al, 2024. Harvesting nature's bounty: exploring the ethnobotanical landscape of wild edible plants in the Awi Agäw community, Northwestern Ethiopia. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2024) 20:59

Houngnon, A., et al, 2021, A checklist of vascular plants of Ewe-Adakplame Relic Forest in Benin, West Africa. Phyto keys 175:151-174

Kebebew, M. & Leta, G., 2016, Wild Edible Plant Bio-diversity and Utilization System in Nech Sar National Park, Ethiopia. International Journal of Bio-resource and Stress Management 2016, 7(4):885-896

Lulekal, E., et al, 2011, Wild edible plants in Ethiopia: a review on their potential to combat food insecurity. Afrika Focus - Vol. 24, No 2. pp 71-121

Masresha, G., et al, 2023, Ethnobotanical Study on Wild Edible Plants in Metema District, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia. International Journal of Forestry Research. Volume 2023, Article ID 9243343 Hindawi

Ojelel, S., et al, 2019, Wild edible plants used by communities in and around selected forest reserves of Teso-Karamoja region, Uganda. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2019) 15:3

Tebkew, M. et al, 2014, Underutilized wild edible plants in the Chilga District, northwestern Ethiopia: focus on wild woody plants. Agriculture & Food Security 3:12

Tebkew, M., et al, 2018, Uses of wild edible plants in Quara district, northwest Ethiopia: implication for forest management. Agriculture and Food Security (2018) 7:12

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/c2d886bb-b5c3-4f27-8eb5-325f16aff2dc