PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros batocana Hiern.

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Sand jackal tree, Sand jackal-berry

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten.
They are eaten as a famine food by adults. They can be boiled.
The leaves are poisonous but are laid over millet being fermented into beer to improve the flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It is often twisted and crooked. It grows to 7 m high. The bark is dark grey. It is rough and cracked. The leaves are oval. They are 5-10 cm long by 2.2-4.5 cm wide. They are leathery. The leaves are glossy dark green above and dull pale green underneath. The edges are rolled under. The leaf stalk is 3-8 cm long. The flowers are creamy white. There can be violet tinges. They are 1.5 cm long with a sweet scent. The flowers occur in clusters on old wood. The fruit are oval or round and fleshy. They are 4 cm across. They have short, soft, brown hairs when young. Fruit are orange when mature.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows at low altitude in hot woodland. It grows between 900-1,525 m above sea level. It grows on sands. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 485 species of Diospyros mostly in the tropics.

REFERENCES

Baidu-Forson, J.J., Phiri, N., Ngu'ni, D., Mulele, S., Simainga, S., Situmo, J., Ndiyoi, M., Wahl, C., Gambone, F., Mulanda, A., Syatwinda, G. ,2014,. Assessment of agrobiodiversity resources in the Borotse flood plain, Zambia. CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Penang, Malaysia. Working Paper: AAS-2014-12.

Fowler, D. G., 2007, Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses. Kew. p 23

Fox, F. W. & Young, M. E. N., 1982, Food from the Veld. Delta Books. p 185

Malaisse, F., 1997, Se nourrir en floret claire africaine. Approche ecologique et nutritionnelle. CTA., p 61

Palgrave, K.C., 1996, Trees of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers. p 744

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 16th April 2011]

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 52

Tredgold, M.H., 1986, Food Plants of Zimbabwe. Mambo Press. p 98

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

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/c8795f3f-b15c-47a9-a38e-d6437f0711d4