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.

Thilachium africanum Lour.

GENUS *Thilachium* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

COMMON NAMES Cucumber bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Fruit

The roots are a famine food. The bark is removed and the centre is cut and pounded the soaked and boiled for several hours.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree. It can grow up to 7 m high. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are alternate and compound. There are 3 leaflets. The leaflets are 3-9 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. The edges of the leaves are rolled under. The leaves are dark green and leathery. The flowers are large and white. The fruit are like cucumbers. They have 12 ridges along them. They are 6 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forest and woodland. It grows between 25-1,550 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It is damaged by frost.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/cda09c46-9726-4e18-a30f-a03330af0702