PLANT FACT SHEET

Combretum collinum Fresen.

GENUS *Combretum* **FAMILY** Combretaceae

COMMON NAMES Weeping bushwillow, Variable bushwillow

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum

The gum is edible and is eaten throughout the year. It is sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 8-10 m tall. It loses many leaves during the year. The crown can be rounded or flat. The bark is reddish brown or pale brown. The leaves can be opposite or alternate. The leaf blade is 20 cm long by 8 cm wide. It varies in shape. There are 6-14 pairs of side veins. The flower clusters are 10 cm long and usually in the axils on the current year's growth. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are brown to purple and 3-5 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. They vary in shape. There are several subspecies.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Namibia it grows in deep sand. It grows in wooded savanna. It grows from sea level to 1,500 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall of 200 mm and above. It grows in sandy and rocky soils. It can tolerate drought. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows slowly. The gum is especially produced in winter.

NOTES

The gum is used in medicine.

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

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