



## 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.

# *Strychnos henningsii* Gilg.

GENUS *Strychnos* FAMILY Loganiaceae

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Roots, Stems, Bark, Leaves - flavouring, Fruit - flavouring

The roots and stems are used in soups. They are boiled and sieved and added in small amounts to bone soup.

The fruit are used for flavouring beer. The fruit themselves are not eaten.

Caution: It needs to be carefully prepared.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It has many branches. It grows 3-6 m tall. The leaves are glossy and opposite. It has 3 prominent veins. The leaves are oval. The flowers are pink and in groups in the axils of leaves. The fruit are 2 cm long. They are green and turn red when ripe.

## HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in dry forests. In Kenya it grows from sea level to 2,300 m altitude. It can grow in rocky soils and dry places. It can grow in arid places.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

## REFERENCES

Maundu, P. et al, 1999, Traditional Food Plants of Kenya. National Museum of Kenya. 288p

Mutie, F. G., 2020, Conservation of Wild Food Plants and Their Potential for Combatting Food Insecurity in Kenya as Exemplified by the Drylands of Kitui County. Plants 2020, 9, 1017

Mutie, F. M., et al, 2023, Important Medicinal and Food Taxa (Orders and Families) in Kenya, Based on Three Quantitative Approaches. Plants 2023, 12, 1145

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; <http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet> [Accessed 1st May 2011]

Ruiters-Welcome, A. K., 2019, Food plants of southern Africa. Ph.D. thesis. Univ. of Johannesburg p 73

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/d3bacee5-f478-4ec2-85ed-0b012d9d46cd>