PLANT FACT SHEET

Dialium orientale Baker f.

GENUS *Dialium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw. They have a sweet acid taste.

DESCRIPTION

A tree or a shrub with many stems. It grows 18 m high. The bark is smooth and grey. It is a spreading plant. The leaves have narrow or sword shaped leaflets. There are 1-4 pairs. These are 2-5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The flowers are white but do not have petals. They are in wide and much branched panicles. The fruit is round, red and 2 cm across. It is edible. It contains 1 or 2 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal, dry evergreen forest. In Kenya it grows in coastal areas. It grows from sea level to 100 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds that are sowed directly where they are to grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Peeled fruit can be kept for 2 years. The fruit are collected from July to October.

NOTES

There are about 40 Dialium species. They grow in tropical SE Asia. They probably all have edible fruit.
Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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