PLANT FACT SHEET

Dioscorea bako Wilkin

GENUS *Dioscorea* **FAMILY** Dioscoreaceae

COMMON NAMES Bako

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

DESCRIPTION

Dioscorea bako is a stem-twining herbaceous yam vine with male and female flowers on separate plants (like most Dioscorea species) to 5 m in height. Its tubers can attain 1.5 m in length and 5.5 kg in weight. Above ground, its leaf lower surface is greyish-green and the leaf margins usually shallowly and irregularly lobed. Its male inflorescences are borne on short specialised leafless shoots towards the stem base, and possess dense, overlapping hairy bracts for most of their length, giving a catkin-like appearance. The small and inconspicuous flowers are found between the bracts. Female flowering plants have not yet been seen, but the capsular fruits are 3-winged and obovate (egg-shaped with the narrow end at the base) to narrowly obovate-oblong in outline, and contain basally winged seeds like most of the species' close relatives in Madagascar. (Taken from Kew website)

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant.

NOTES

It is an at risk species.

REFERENCES

Jeannoda, V. H., 2016, Plants at risk of extinction: the case of some Madagascar wild yam species (Dioscorea spp.) SOTWP-2016

Kew, Plants of the World on Line

Wilkin, P., Rajaonah, M.T., Jeannoda, V.H., Hladik, A, Jeannoda, V.L. & Hladik C.M. (2008). An endangered new species of edible yam (Dioscorea, Dioscoreaceae) from Western Madagascar and its conservation. Kew Bulletin. 63: 113-120.

www.kew.org/plants-fungi/Dioscorea-bako.htm

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d49f55a9-98bf-4fa7-bb85-304cf349fee5