PLANT FACT SHEET

Erythrococca kirkii (Muell. Arg.) Prain

GENUS *Erythrococca* **FAMILY** Euphorbiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The chopped leaves are eaten cooked as a vegetable. They are often mixed with other vegetables.
The ripe fruits are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A straggling shrub. It can grow 4.5 m tall. The bark is rough. The leaves are alternate and simple. They are oval and 5-15 cm long by 2-8 cm wide. The base is wedge shaped and they taper to the tip. The flowers are in rounded groups 1-2 cm long. There are fewer female flowers than male flowers. The fruit are a 3 lobed capsule.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in forests and along rivers and on the edges of woodland and lakes. It grows up to 1,250 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania leaves are collected from February to June.

NOTES

There are about 50 Erythrococca species.

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