PLANT FACT SHEET

Digitaria iburua Stapf

GENUS *Digitaria* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Black acha, Black fonio

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

It is used in the preparation of a couscous locally known as wusu-wusu.
It is used to prepare beer.

DESCRIPTION

A wild millet grass. It is slightly taller than Fonio (Digitaria exilis). It forms loose tufts. It grows 1.4 m high. It has 4 to 10 racemes per inflorescence. The spikelets are dark brown but the grain is white.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is cultivated as a cereal in the Hausa region in northern Nigeria. It grows between 400-1,000 m altitude in West Africa. It grows in areas with a rainfall of 900-1,000 mm per year. It grows in the savannah.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is often grown intercropped with sorgum or pearl millet. It is also grown mixed with fonio (Digitaria exilis).

NOTES

There are about 250 Digitaria species.

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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

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