PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora multijuga (Hiern.) K. Schum.

GENUS *Commiphora* **FAMILY** Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Purple-stem corkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Stems - drink

DESCRIPTION

A broad leaved tree. It grows 2-8 m high. The bark is smooth and red brown. The leaves are compound. They have leaflets along the stalk and one at the end. They are 3-8 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets droop. They are oval and 1-3 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. The leaflets are dark green on both surfaces. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The flowers are cream or yellow. The petals are curved outwards. The fruit is a round berry. It is 15 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It cannot tolerate frost. It grows in areas with a marked dry season. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 50-450 mm. It grows on sandy or stony soils. In southern Africa it grows between 100-1,080 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be cut back and will re-grow.

NOTES

An edible caterpillar (Usta wallendrenii) eats the leaves.

REFERENCES

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (1999). Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SEPASAL) database. Published on the Internet; http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/internet [Accessed 5th April 2011]

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/dc481af0-dac5-4b81-b2fc-13b3ceaa4db7