PLANT FACT SHEET

Carpolobia goetzei Gurke

GENUS *Carpolobia* **FAMILY** Polygalaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The ripe fruit are fleshy and sweet and eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It has many slender branches. It grows about 3 m tall. It can be a scrambler. The leaves are sword shaped and smooth. They are 10 cm long by 4 cm wide. They taper to the tip. They are stiff and leathery. They are a shiny green on both surfaces. The veins are easy to see on both sides. The flowers are small and white with purple tips. They occur as a few flowers in slender stalks 3 cm long. The fruit are black and 8 mm across. They are shiny when ripe. They are very sweet and edible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in coastal forests. It suits the lowlands. In Tanzania it grows from sea level to 1,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania the fruit are collected from April to June.

NOTES

There may be 14 Carpolobia species. Polygalaceae mostly grow in warm and temperate coastal areas which are not arid.

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