PLANT FACT SHEET

Gisekia africana (Lour.) Kuntze

GENUS *Gisekia* **FAMILY** Gisekiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

The seeds are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It can be erect or lie along the ground. It can grow from seed each year or keep growing from year to year. It can grow 2 m high. The stems are soft. The leaves are 1-8 cm long by 2 cm wide. They vary in shape. The flowers are dark red. They grow in groups. The petals have pink tips and a white centre. The fruit are blackish and covered with warts.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows in hot and arid areas with a marked dry season. The dry season can be 6-11 months. It grows in stony and sandy soils. It can grow in desert. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The seeds are collected by ants. They are then taken from the ant nests.

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 16th April 2011]

Sullivan, S., 1998, People plants and practice in drylands: Socio-political and ecological dimensions of resource-use by Damara farmers in north-west Namibia. Ph.D. Univ. College London.

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

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e13b5d21-5e9f-43d0-aa50-2478f1add616