PLANT FACT SHEET

Vepris nobilis (Delile) Mziray

GENUS *Vepris* **FAMILY** Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES Small-fruited teclea, Giant cherry-orange

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves - flavouring

The ripe fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or a medium sized tree. It grows 20 m tall. The trunk does not have branches for 7.5 m. The trunk is often crooked and can be 60 cm across. The leaves are alternate and have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are oval and 5-15 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are narrowly oval. They taper to the tip. The flowers are in groups 15 cm long in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. The flowers are whitish-yellow. Male and female flowers are separate. The fruit is oval and fleshy. It is 6-8 mm long by 5-6 mm wide and is smooth. It is orange-red and has one seed inside. The seed is oval.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on the edges of evergreen forest and along rivers. It grows in evergreen forest between 900-2,700 m altitude in East Africa. It is at lower altitudes in southern Africa.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Fresh seed should be used. Seeds can only be stored for a few months. Trees can be pruned and cut back and allowed to re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows very slowly. Fruit ripen 1-2 months after flowering.

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