PLANT FACT SHEET

Kedrostis hirtella (Naud.) Cogn.

GENUS *Kedrostis* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Tuber, Root

The fruit are eaten raw. They are bitter.
The tuber is baked in hot ashes.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It is a pumpkin family plant. It lies along the ground or is a climber. It is 2 m long. It forms a tuber at the base. It can re-grow from this. The tuber is long. The leaves are dark green and alternate. They have 3 lobes arranged like fingers. The fruit are bright red and like cucumbers. They are 4-8 cm long. They taper to the end. There are white dots on the surface. The split along their length when ripe.

This is probably now a synonym of Kedrostis leloji.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It needs well-drained soil. It can grow in stony or sandy soils. It grows between 70-1,525 m above sea level. It is rare in Swaziland. In Namibia it grows in the shade. It can grow in arid places.

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