



PLANT FACT SHEET

Zanthoxylum gilletii (De Wild.) P. G. Waterman

GENUS *Zanthoxylum* FAMILY Rutaceae

COMMON NAMES African satinwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - flavouring, Leaves - tea, Seeds - oil

The young shoots are used for flavouring sauces.

The leaves are added to tea for flavouring.

The seeds yield an edible oil.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 35 m tall. The trunk is without branches for 15 m. It is straight and cylinder shaped. It is 90 cm across. It has prickles up to 3 cm long. The leaves are alternate and clustered at the ends of branches. They are compound. There are 13-27 leaflets with one leaflet at the end. The leaves are 120 cm long. The leaflets are 14-30 cm long by 4-10 cm wide. The flowers are of separate sexes. The fruit are round and woody. They are 4-6 mm across. The seeds are round.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows up to 2,400 m altitude. The rainfall is 1,200-2,400 mm per year. It grows in the humid zone in West Africa.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The fruit are dried for 1-2 days then the seed shaken out. Seeds germinate 3 weeks after planting. The germination rate is low. Seedlings should be grown in the shade.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows rapidly. Fruit ripen about 3 months after flowering.

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