PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Bobgunnia madagascariensis (Desv.) J. H. Kirkbride & Wiersma

GENUS *Bobgunnia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Iron-heart tree

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 18 m tall. The bark is grey or rbown and is deeply cracked. The young branches have rusty brown hairs. The leaves are compound. The leaves are 6-15 cm long. There are 5-9 leaflets and these are 2-6 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are usually darker coloured above. The lower surface is hairy. The flowers are on unbranched stalks. These are 5 cm long. They have about 10 flowers. The petals are white with a yellow patch at the base inside. The fruit are pods 8-18 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. They are usually bumpy and twisted. They are hard and dark brown. They contain several seeds. The seeds are 7-8 mm long by 5-7 mm wide and 3 mm thick.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in deciduous woodland. It is mainly on sandy soils. It grows between 150-1,740 m altitude.

NOTES

The seeds are used as a fish poison.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/e49679dd-c004-4752-adad-38067efd8b99