PLANT FACT SHEET

Capparis cartilaginea Decne

GENUS *Capparis* **FAMILY** Capparaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Seeds, Gum

The fruit are eaten raw. The bitter skin is removed.
The flowers are cooked as a vegetable.
The seeds are sweet and provide sugar.

DESCRIPTION

A scrambling shrub. It can hang from rocks. It is fleshy with short crooked branches. It can grow to 4 m high. The leaves are oval and 2-6 cm long by 2-6 cm wide. They are fleshy. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. They are large and white and unequal. The flowers stalk is stout and 4-5 cm long. The fruit is oval and 3-5 cm long and 2-3 cm wide. It can be reddish and ribbed. It has many seeds in a pulp.

HABITAT

A Mediterranean plant. It grows near the coast. It grows from sea level to 1,800 m altitude. It can grow in alkaline soil. It can grow in salty soils. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

There are about 250 Capparis species. There are about 50 Capparis species in tropical America.

REFERENCES

Asfaw, Z. and Tadesse, M., 2001, Prospects for Sustainable Use and Development of Wild Food Plants in Ethiopia. Economic Botany, Vol. 55, No. 1, pp. 47-62

Bahru, T., et al, 2013, Wild Edible Plants: Sustainable Use and Management by Indigenous Communities in and the Buffer Area of Awah National Park, Ethiopia. Ethiop. J. Sci., 36(2): 93-108

Bailey, C. and Danin, A., 1981, Bedouin Plant Utilization in Sinai and the Negev. Economic Botany 35(2): 145-162

East African Herbarium records, 1981,

Miller, A. G., Morris, M. & Stuart-Smith, S., 1988, Plants of Dhofar. The Southern Region of Oman, Traditional, Economic and Medicinal Uses. Sultanate of Oman. p 92

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 76

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 7th April 2011]

Seidemann J., 2005, World Spice Plants. Economic Usage, Botany, Taxonomy. Springer. p 79 (Synonyms confused)

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/e4af2cc9-7633-4d05-82df-3ce5c56e3983