PLANT FACT SHEET

Osyris compressa (P. J. Bergius) A. DC.

GENUS *Osyris* **FAMILY** Santalaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape sumach

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Bark, Leaves, Fruit

The fruit can be stored.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen shrub. It can grow 5 m tall. The trunk can be 25 cm across. It can grow as a parasite attached to the roots of other plants. The leaves are opposite and narrowly oval. They are erect and crowded on the stem. They are 1-5 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. The flowers are small and 2 mm across. They are yellowish-green. The fruit are red and turn dark purple when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows on dunes along the coast in scrub and forest. It grows well in sandy soils. It is best in a sunny position.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds planted near a suitable host tree. They cannot be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants fruit for about 8 months of the year.

REFERENCES

De Vynk, J. C., et al, 2016, Indigenous edible plant use by contemporary Khoe-San descendants of South Africa's Cape South Coast. South African Journal of Botany. 102 (2016) 60-69

Fern, K., 2012, Tropical Species Database http://theferns.info/tropical/

Grivetti, L. E., 1980, Agricultural development: present and potential role of edible wild plants. Part 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, Report to the Department of State Agency for International Development. p 45

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/treedb/

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/f094ab43-e40c-4fd5-9172-098e1ce8bec8