PLANT FACT SHEET

Diospyros lycioides subsp. sericea Desf., (Bernh.) De Winter

GENUS *Diospyros* **FAMILY** Ebenaceae

COMMON NAMES Kalahari star-apple, Blue bush, Monkey-plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh and also used for drinks. They are also made into alcoholic drinks.
The fruit pulp is sweet.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 6 m high. It loses many leaves during the year. The small branches usually point upwards. It forms thickets. The bark is dark grey and smooth. The stems are spiny. The leaves are even along their length. They are 2-3 cm long and are hairy. The leaves are clustered near the ends of branches. The flowers are creamy white. The fruit are oval and red or yellow when ripe. They are 2 cm across.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is often along rivers and on termite mounds. It grows from 600-1,525 m altitude. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall of about 500 mm. It grows on rocky and sandy soils. It can grow in salty soils. It can grow in arid places.

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