PLANT FACT SHEET

Lycium afrum L.

GENUS *Lycium* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES African tea-tree, Kraal honey-thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can be 4-5 m tall. The bark is pale creamy-brown. The small branches are armed with rigid spines. These are 1-4.5 cm long. The leaves are alternate and very slender. They are 1-2.5 cm long by 0.1-0.3 cm wide. They are thinly leathery. They are dark or bright green. They taper to the base. The flowers are purple or mauve. These are tinged with green or brown. The flowers are in the axils of leaves. They can be single or hanging on slender stalks. The fruit are round and fleshy. They are 1.2 cm across. They are red but become purple-black when mature.

HABITAT

It occurs in dry coastal scrub. It suits hardiness zones 9-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Seed germinate easily. It is a good hedge plant.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants are fast growing.

NOTES

There are about 100 Lycium species.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f281c2a4-d8d9-4b77-a529-066cc3fbf645