PLANT FACT SHEET

Parkinsonia africana Sonder

GENUS *Parkinsonia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Wild green-hair tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - coffee, Fruit - drinks, Leaves, Vegetable

The seeds are sometimes used for coffee. They are roasted, ground and boiled in water as coffee. They are sometimes added to coffee to improve the flavour.
The fruit are used to prepare a drink.
The leaves are eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can grow up to 6 m tall. The branches are smooth and flexible. The young branches are bright yellow-green and armed with spines. The tree is normally leafless. Only the midribs of the leaves cling to the tree. When leaflets are present they are narrow and arranged in 8-10 opposite pairs. The flowers are small and yellow. They occur in bunches in the axils of leaf stalks and at the ends of branches. The pods are 10-15 cm long. They are reddish brown and compressed between the seeds. There are about 8 seeds per pod and they are oblong and shiny.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows on sandy plains in arid areas. It grows in the desert in Namibia. It grows in stony and sandy soils. It grows between 100-1,350 m above sea level. In Costa Rica it occurs in dry lowland areas. It can grow in arid places.

NOTES

It can become invasive. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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