



PLANT FACT SHEET

Myrsine africana L.

GENUS *Myrsine* FAMILY Primulaceae

COMMON NAMES Cape myrtle, African-boxwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Bark

The ripe fruit are eaten raw or used as an adulterant of black pepper.
The seeds are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It can be 3 m high. The bark is reddish. The branches are 0.5-2 mm thick. The leaves are small and sword shaped or round. They are 0.5-2 cm long by 0.5-1 cm wide. They are leathery and glossy green. There can be small teeth along the edge. The flowers are small and pink. The fruit is thinly fleshy and 4 mm across. They are pink when mature.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It grows among rocks and in open woodland. It grows in moist areas in Miombo woodland. It occurs over a wide range of altitudes. It can be on the edges of evergreen forest. In China it grows in open mountain slopes and dry sunny places. It occurs between 1000-3600 m in S China. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are easily grown from seed. They can be grown from cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from June to December.

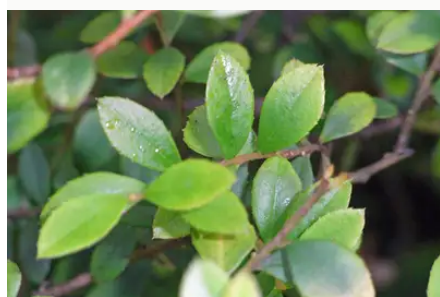
NOTES

There are about (5 or 6) 200-300 *Myrsine* species. They grow in the tropics. Also put in the family Myrsinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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