



PLANT FACT SHEET



Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Duosperma crenatum (Lindau) P. G. Mey.

GENUS *Duosperma* FAMILY Acanthaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The young leaves are chopped and cooked as a vegetable.

Caution: The old yellowing leaves are considered poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

An erect branched herb. The stems are hairy and four sided. They can be 1.2 m long. They are often tangled and form a thicket. The leaves are opposite and can have teeth towards the tip. They are 8 cm long by 4 cm wide. The flowers are white with purple marks. The flowers occur in groups along the stem. The flowers have pale green bracts around them. The fruit is a 2 sided capsule. It is 8 mm long and flattened. It contains round seeds.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in damp shady places. It grows in dry rocky woodland between 300-1,000 m above sea level. In Tanzania it grows between 900-1,400 m above sea level. It can grow in arid areas and semi-desert.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Leaves are collected during the rainy season.

NOTES

There are about 15 *Duosperma* species.

REFERENCES

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