



PLANT FACT SHEET

Maytenus undata (Thunb.) Blakelock

GENUS *Maytenus* **FAMILY** Celastraceae

COMMON NAMES South African holly, Koko tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - flavour, Fruit, Manna, Vegetable

The bark is used for drinks and as a flavouring.

The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A large shrub or small tree. It grows 8 m high and the trunk is 70 cm around. It does not have spines nor hairs. The leaves are sword shaped or oval. They taper to both ends. They have blunt teeth. The leaves are 10 cm long by 4 cm wide. The flowers are in tufts. The petals are cream or green. The fruit are round and 5 mm across. They are pale yellow.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in lowland and mountain savannah areas in west Africa. It grows in dry soils. In Malawi it grows from 750-2,000 m altitude. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are easily grown from seeds.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/f7a9a456-e429-4f68-ac21-a52c160c8262>