PLANT FACT SHEET

Afrocanthium mundianum (Cham. & Schlechtldl.) Lantz

GENUS *Afrocanthium* **FAMILY** Rubiaceae

COMMON NAMES Rock alder

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten fresh. They have the flavour of wild medlar.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 3-8 m high. The main stem is straight. There are often a group of small slender stems. The leaves are opposite or in clusters on small side shoots. The leaves are thin and 2-7 cm long by 1-6 cm wide. They are light green. There are tufts of hairs near the veins underneath. The flowers are small and greenish-white. They have a slight scent. The flowers are in clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit is oblong and unequal in shape. They are 7-10 mm long and have 1-2 lobes. They are black when ripe.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows from sea level to 1500 m altitude in South Africa. They grow in evergreen forest and in mountain grassland. It grows on rocky mountain hillsides and in forests.

NOTES

There are about 200 Canthium species.

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