



PLANT FACT SHEET

Polysphaeria parvifolia Hiern

GENUS *Polysphaeria* FAMILY Rubiaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It is 1-6 m tall. The stems are slender and often with a few short hairs. The side branches arise just above the nodes. The bark is red brown and peels off in long strips. The leaves are opposite and narrowly oval. They are 5-9 cm long. The base is rounded or heart shaped. The flowers are white. They appear with the leaves in small clusters. These do not have stalks and are at the nodes. The fruit are round berries 1 cm across. They are in dense clusters. They become orange red when ripe.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It grows in evergreen forest and coastal woodlands. In Tanzania it grows from sea level to 1,400 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Tanzania fruit are collected from April to June.

NOTES

There are about 20 *Polysphaeria* species. They are in tropical Africa.

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PROVIDED BY Food Plants International

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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