



PLANT FACT SHEET

Commiphora marlothii Engl.

GENUS *Commiphora* FAMILY Burseraceae

COMMON NAMES Paper-bark tree, Paperbark corkwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Root

The fruit are eaten. They are sometimes processed into jelly or jam.

The root is chewed for its sweet juice. It is first peeled.

DESCRIPTION

A small to medium sized tree. It grows to 13 m tall. It often has a thick trunk. The bark is green and peeling. It peels in yellow, papery sheets. The leaves have 3-4 pairs of opposite leaflets then an end leaflet. The leaflets are oblong and 3-7.5 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. They are pale green. They are soft. The edges of the leaflets are scalloped. The flowers are small and yellow. They are in the axils of leaves. They are in compact heads 1.8 cm across. The fruit are oval and green or brownish-red. They have a small sharp tip. The stone has a 4 lobed aril or seed layer. This is yellow or red.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is normally always associated with rocky or stony hill slopes. In Zimbabwe it grows between 500-1,550 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or by large cuttings. It is usually best grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 165 *Commiphora* species.

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