



PLANT FACT SHEET

Dalbergia melanoxylon Guill. & Perr.

GENUS *Dalbergia* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES African blackwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Bark

DESCRIPTION

A climber. It can be a shrub or straggling tree. It grows 10 m high. It has many branches and many spines. The crown is irregular. The bark is rough and grey. It flakes off in small scales. The leaves are 8-20 cm long. There are 6-12 leaflets. The are 1-4 cm long by 1-3 cm wide and almost round. The group of flowers are in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. They can be 8 cm long. The flowers are white and have a sweet scent. They are small. The fruit is a 1-3 seeded pod. It is 3-7 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. It is thin and stiff and has lumps over the seeds. There are 8-10 seeds. They are 7-8 mm long by 1.5 mm wide. They are reddish-brown and glossy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows at low altitude in seasonally dry mixed woodland. It grows in Miombo woodland. It grows up to 1,450 m altitude. It is rare in Swaziland. It often grows on termite mounds. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from fresh seeds. They are transplanted after 5 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees are 4 m high after 7 years.

NOTES

The wood is important for carvings and instruments.

This tree legume forms nodules.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

- Baidu-Forson, J.J., et al, 2014,. Assessment of agrobiodiversity resources in the Borotse flood plain, Zambia. CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Penang, Malaysia. Working Paper: AAS-2014-12.
- Ballal, M. E., et al, 2014, Ethno-botany of Natural Forests of Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan State, Sudan. *Journal of Forest Products & Industries*. 3(1):13-19
- East African herbarium records, 1981,
- Flora Zambesiaca. <http://apps.kew.org/efloras>
- Fowler, D. G., 2007, *Zambian Plants: Their Vernacular Names and Uses*. Kew. p 36
- Maydell, H. von, 1990, *Trees and shrubs of the Sahel: their characteristics and uses*. Margraf. p 249
- Njana, M. A., et al, 2013, Are miombo woodlands vital to livelihoods of rural households? Evidence from Urumwa and surrounding communities, Tabora, Tanzania. *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods*, 22:2, 124-140
- Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, *Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa*. Kew. p 133
- Swaziland's Flora Database <http://www.sntc.org.sz/flora>
- Storrs, A. E. C., 1995 reprint, *Know Your Trees. Some Common Trees found in Zambia*, Forestry Division. Regional Soil Conservation Unit, Nairobi, p 53
- World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

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

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/fe6e3c46-66b3-490b-831d-e6af9b339829>