

Common names**Gadda,**

Rutaceae

Scientific name***Zanthoxylum chalybeum*****Edible portion**

Leaves, Bark, Fruit, Vegetable,

**Description**

A shrub or small tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 6 m tall. The crown is broad and dense. It has prickly processes on the trunk. The leaves are 6-20 cm long. There are 2-5 leaflets. The leaflet blades are 3-7 cm long by 1-3 cm wide. They are narrowly oval. The flower panicle is 9 cm long. It is at the base of new branches. Male and female flowers are separate. The fruit are about 6 mm across. The seed is black and shiny.

Distribution

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the lowlands. It grows in dry woodland and on termite mounds. In Kenya it grows from sea level to 1,800 m altitude. It grows on coastal sands and well-drained red clay soils. It can grow in arid places.

Found in:

Africa, Burundi, Central Africa, Congo DR, East Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Southern Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Use

The leaves and fruit have a strong aroma and are used to flavour tea. They are also used as a vegetable. They can also be pounded, dried and stored.

The bark is also used to make tea and put in soups for flavour.

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or root suckers. Plants can be cut back and allowed to re-grow.

Production

It is slow growing. Leaves are collected during the rainy season and early dry season.



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Nutritional Values

Zanthoxylum chalybeum

Edible Part	/100 g edible portion	Moisture %	Energy KJ	Energy Kcal	Protein g	Provit A µg	Vit C mg	Iron mg	Zinc mg
Leaves		57.0	275	66	14.0				
Fruit dry		11.0			8.5			21.8	



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