

Feretia apodanthera

Delile

Rubiaceae

A variable species, it has been separated into at least three subspecies[398].

+ Synonyms

Common Name:

General Information

Feretia apodanthera is a bushy, deciduous shrub with winding or twisting branches, growing from 2 - 6 metres tall[332, 774].

The plant is gathered from the wild for local use as a food, medicine and cosmetic.

Known Hazards

None known

Botanical References




Range

Tropical Africa - Mauritania and Senegal to Ethiopia and Somalia, south to Kenya and Tanzania.

Habitat

Savannah bushland and woodland, often riverine[332]. Bushland, coastal bushland, thickets, often near rivers or on dry hillsides, forest margins, at elevations from sea level to around 1,400 metres[398].

Properties

Edibility Rating	
Medicinal Rating	
Other Uses Rating	
Habit	Deciduous Shrub
Height	3.00 m
Cultivation Status	Wild

Cultivation Details

Often found on clay soils in the wild, and also found in soils subject to seasonal inundation[774]. The subspecies *F. Apodanthera tanzaniensis* has larger fruits than subsp *keniensis*[398].

Edible Uses

Fruit - raw[398]. The red fleshy pulp of ripe fruit is eaten raw as a snack and, especially by herdsmen and children, are used for quenching hunger and thirst[398].



Flowering tree

Photograph by: [Karen Hahn-Hadjali: African plants - A Photo Guide](#)

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The roasted fruit is used as a substitute for coffee[774]. (Should this be the seed?[K])

The dried leaves are eaten as a vegetable[774].

Medicinal

A decoction of the roots is used in the treatment of gonorrhoea, syphilis and leprosy[46, 774]. An infusion is drunk to treat stomach-ache[398].

The powder obtained from pounded roots is used to treat wounds[398].

The fruit is crushed with water and used as an antidote to snake bites[774].

Agroforestry Uses:

The tree is used for making live fences[398].

Other Uses

The fruits are occasionally used as a cosmetic[46]. Used as a cosmetic face mask[774]. Combined with indigo (*Indigifera* spp.), they are used for making markings on the face[46].

The whirled branches are used as swizzle sticks for mixing drinks[774].

Propagation

Seed -
Cuttings.

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