

Acokanthera schimperi (c) Franz Eugen Köhler



Acokanthera schimperi (c) ChriKo



Acokanthera schimperi
Family: Apocynaceae

GIR: Utungu
Eng: Arrow Poison Tree

A small tree.

The bark, wood and roots of Acokanthera schimperi are used as an important ingredient of arrow poison in Africa. All plant parts contain acovenoside A and ouabaïne, which are cardiotonic glycosides. Its fruit is edible, and is eaten as a famine food. When ripe they are sweet but also slightly bitter. Unripe fruits have caused accidental poisoning as they are highly toxic.

The maned rat spreads the plant's poison on its fur and becomes poisonous.

It is also used in traditional African medicine.In Ethiopia, for example, Acokanthera schimperi leaves have been traditionally used for jaundice.

Wikipedia

Available from Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery