

January Succulent of the Month

Andrea Varesic

Alluaudia dumosa

Common name alluaudia, meaning “scrubby”

Family Didiereaceae

Genus Alluaudia

Distribution: Southern Madagascar

Habitat: Semi-arid scrubland and thorn forests above 900 m

Description: *A. dumosa* is a slow growing succulent tree or a large shrub. Mature plants can reach 25' tall and 15' wide in the wild but only 10' by 4' in cultivation. The mostly leafless, cylindrical, elongated, grey-green stems are upright to arching and sparsely covered in small spines. Flowers are pink, white and yellow to chartreuse.

Diseases: It has no pests or disease of note.

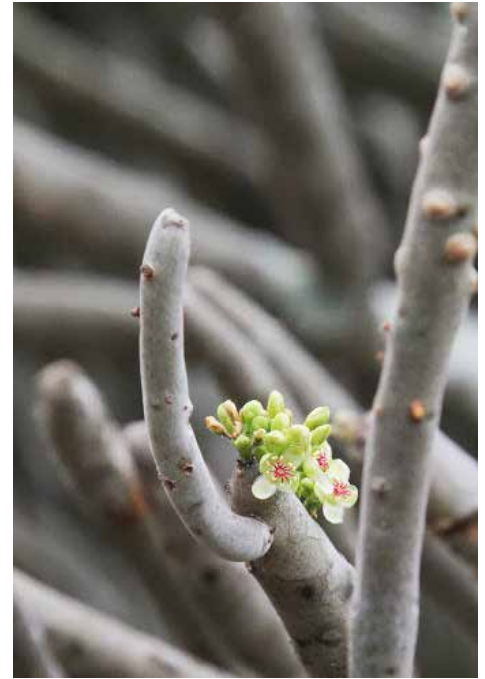
Propagation: It is dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are on separate individuals. It is propagated by seeds or cuttings.

Medicinal uses: A decoction, a liquid resulting from extracting the essence by boiling, of the stems is used to treat a toothache and can be used as a mouth disinfectant. Several flavonoids from the plant are antimicrobial in nature.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279836&isprofile=0&cv>

<http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week384.shtml>



http://www.kaktusar.cz/?attachment_id=992

