PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanopsis sclerophylla (Lindley & Paxton) Schottky

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Bitter chestnut, White rock chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The nuts are used for food. They can be eaten fresh. Starch is extracted from them. This is used to prepare pudding.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. The branches and leaf blades are smooth. The young shoots are reddish brown and slightly angular. The leaf stalk is 1.5-2.5 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 7-15 cm long. It is leathery. It turns silvery grey on the upper surface with age. The base is rounded or wedge shaped and often unequal. The leaf blade can have irregular edges in the top section. They taper to the tip and it can be cup shaped. There are 10-15 side veins on each side of the midrib. The female flower arrangement is about 15 cm long. The cups are 1.2-1.5 cm across. They almost entirely enclose the nut. The outside is brownish and hairy. The are scale like bracts. They are 3-4 angled. There is usually one nut per cup but there can be 3. These are 1-1.4 cm across. They are hairy and the tip is sharp.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. They grow in broad leafed forest between 200-1000 m altitude in China.

NOTES

There are about 120 Castanopsis species. Many have edible nuts.

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/03d838f2-07ff-4dfb-a54d-8c9a5815c694