PLANT FACT SHEET

Scaphium affine (Mast.) Pierre

GENUS *Scaphium* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Malva nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit

The seeds swell very large and yield a transparent edible gel. A cooling drink is made by soaking the seeds overnight and adding sugar and flavour.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. The crown is rounded. It grows 18-40 m tall. The trunk is straight and 80 cm across. It has buttresses 2 m tall.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It often grows along rivers and near swamps. It grows between 700-800 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an average annual rainfall between 1,500-2,500 mm.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Often the seeds have a hard seed coat that needs to be scratched or cracked to allow water to enter. Seeds germinate best with a temperature of 20-30°C.

Harvesting and Seed Production

One tree can yield 40 kg of nuts. Plants often only flower every 1-3 years.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Eiadthong, W., et al, 2010, Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex. Botanical Consultant Technical Report. p 51

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 239 (As Sterculia lychnophora)

FAO Forestry Department. Non-wood forest products in Indochina - Focus Vietnam 5.4 Edible Plant Products (As Sterculia lychnophora)

Uphof, (As Sterculia lychnophora)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/146c5cc0-b2a4-42ec-ab38-004d7da8ec3f