PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassia sophora (L.) Wall.

GENUS *Cassia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Leaves, Seeds, Flowers

CAUTION: Leaves contain senna and chrysophanic acid, which are purgative.
The bitter element is removed by boiling and washing.
The leaves are fried.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub 2-3 m tall. The stems have few hairs. The leaf stalks have a club shaped gland near the base. The leaflets are in 4-10 pairs and they are 2-7 cm long by 0.8-2 cm wide. The flowers are in very short clusters in the axils of upper leaves. The flower stalks are 0.8-2.5 cm long. The petals are yellow and 1-1.5 cm long. The fruit are oblong, thin, slightly curved pods. They are 5-10.5 cm long by 0.6-1.1 cm wide. The pods are divided by partitions. The seeds are grey-brown and rounded. They are 4-4.5 mm long by 3.5-4.5 mm wide. They lie at right angles to the long axis of the pod.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout the tropics.

NOTES

It is not known if they are used for food in Papua New Guinea. There are 100 Cassia species. This group has been revised to a smaller more consistent group. Also as Caesalpinaceae.
This name needs clarifying. Possibly Cassia sophera now Senna sophera.

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