PLANT FACT SHEET

Bauhinia racemosa (L.) Lam.

GENUS *Bauhinia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Burmese silk orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Flowers, Leaves, Pods

The seeds are dried and ground into flour for making bread. They are also roasted and eaten.
The flower buds are eaten cooked. The young leaves and flowers are stir-fried.
The leaves are pickled.

DESCRIPTION

A small deciduous tree. It can be up to 15 m high. It has a crooked trunk and spreading crown. The bark is very dark and rough and deeply cracked. The leaves have 2 lobes. They are broader than they are long. The flowers are greenish-yellow. There are 10 stamens. The pods are 15-20 cm long. They are thick and woody and slightly curved. They contain 10-20 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in deciduous forest. It can tolerate a wide range of soils. It is reasonably tolerant of drought and high rainfall. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds, air-layering or grafting.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit are available in May to July in Rajasthan in India. In southern China plants flower in April to May and fruit in June to August.

NOTES

There are about 250-350 Bauhinia species. Most are in the tropics. Also as Caesalpinaceae. It has anticancer properties.

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