PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanopsis argyrophylla King ex Hook. f.

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Gon chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw or boiled.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. The branches and leaf blades are smooth. The shoots are blackish brown when dry. The leaf stalk is 1-2.5 cm long. The blade is oval or sword shaped. It is 10-20 cm long by 4-7 cm wide. It is thickly leathery. The base is heart shaped or rounded. It tapers to the tip and can have a sharp tip. There are 10-13 side veins. The fruiting stalk is 10-25 cm long. The cup is round and 2.5-3.5 cm across. It is softly hairy when young. It has spine like bracts. The nut often occurs singly but there may be 3. They are round but flattened. They are 1.5-1.8 cm across. They are densely hairy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in broad-leaved evergreen forest between 1000-1500 m altitude in Southern China.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

Harvesting and Seed Production

There are about 300 nuts per kg.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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