PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Bussea occidentalis* Hutch

**GENUS** *Bussea* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds

The seeds are roasted and eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 30 m high. The trunk is usually straight. It is 75 cm across. The crown is small and dense. The leaves are compound. They are twice divided. There are 4-6 pairs of opposite pinnae each 7-20 cm long. They are swollen at the base. These each have 5-8 leaflets 4-10 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. Young leaves have rusty hairs. The flowers are large and yellow. They have a scent. The flowering clusters are 20-30 cm long and have rusty hairs. The fruit are curved pods. They are 15-30 cm long. The pod curls up after opening. The seeds are thick and oily.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in evergreen and deciduous forests in West Africa.

## PRODUCTION

### Harvesting and Seed Production

In Sierra Leone the flowers are in June and fruit mature in December or January.

## NOTES

There are 7 Bussea species. Also as Caesalpinaceae. It has previously been confused with Peltophorum perocarpum in West Africa.

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