PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia schumanniana (Laut.) Mildb.

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The nut-like seeds are eaten cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree up to 20 m high. The trunk is often crooked and the tree slender. The trunk can be 45 cm across. It has buttresses. The crown of the tree is often broad. The branches are slender, light brown and often with grooves. The leaves are alternate, simple and at the ends of branches. They are oblong and have a tail. The blade can be 20 cm long by 8 cm wide. There are 6-7 pairs of side veins. The leaf stalk is 2.5 cm long and and thicker at both ends. The flowers are bell shaped. Plants can have male, female or both sex flowers. These hang in loose stalked branches. These can be in the axils of leaves but are mostly on buds from stems and main branches. The flowers are dull red. The fruit are often in clusters. They have 3-5 velvety sacs. The fruit is bright orange-red at maturity. The seeds inside are black. They are 1.8 cm long by 1 cm wide. Possibly now Sterculia tantraensis Morat.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It occurs in the lowlands.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

The bark is used for string for string bags.
Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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