PLANT FACT SHEET

Apeiba tibourbou Aubl.

GENUS *Apeiba* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Monkey comb

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 20 m tall. It loses its leaves during the year. The trunk is grey ad the bark is fibrous. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are softly hairy. The leaves are are 30 cm long. They are heart shaped at the base and have teeth around the edge. The leaf stalk is swollen where it joins the leaf blade. The buds and flowers are softly hairy. The flowers are yellow. The fruit are green to brown and a flattened round shape. The fruit are 8 cm across. The fruit are covered with soft bristles. The pulp has many small seeds. The seeds are 5 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Costa Rica it grows from sea level to 1,000 m altitude. It grows along roadsides and in abandoned fields.

NOTES

The Tiliaceae have now been placed in the Malvaceae. The seeds are rich in oil.

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