PLANT FACT SHEET

Lithocarpus fordianus (Hemsley) Chun.

GENUS *Lithocarpus* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Soi gan day, Mi mai ke

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Nuts

The nut contains edible starch.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It grows 10-15 m high. The young branches have yellow hairs. The leaf stalk is 1-3 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 10-25 cm long by 3-9 cm wide. It is thickly papery. The leaf is the same colour on both sides. There are 20-28 veins each side of the main vein. The flowers are usually of both sexes with the male flowers on the top half. The fruit is a nut which is half round and 2.5-3.3 cm across. It is 1.7-2 cm high. It is greyish yellow and hairy at the tip.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in mountainous regions in North Vietnam from 800 to 1,500 m altitude. It needs shade when young. It needs fertile, deep, moist soil.

NOTES

There are about 300 Lithocarpus species.

REFERENCES

Huang Chengjiu, Zhang Yongtian, Bartholomew, B., Fagaceae, Flora of China.

Forest Inventory and Planning Institute, 1996, Vietnam Forest Trees. Agriculture Publishing House p 282

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