PLANT FACT SHEET

Bauhinia rufescens Lam.

GENUS *Bauhinia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Silver butterfly tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Pods

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows 3-10 m high. The bark is grey and smooth but becomes scaly when old. It has very tough, leathery, silvery leaves. The flowers are small and white. The fruit are curling pods which explode. They are 10 cm long and twisted. There are 4-10 seeds

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in the dry savannah especially on river banks. It grows in the Sahel. It can grow in arid places. It can grow in coastal sands. It grows between 200-800 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. The seeds are boiled and allowed to cool slowly.

NOTES

There are about 250-350 Bauhinia species. Most are in the tropics. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/2dcf9679-2743-4c02-8bc1-7b4f825bdcdf