PLANT FACT SHEET

Pentadesma butyracea Sabine

GENUS *Pentadesma* **FAMILY** Clusiaceae

COMMON NAMES Butter tree, Black Mango, Candle Tree, Tallow Tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Seeds - oil, Fruit

The seeds are the source of an edible fat.
The seeds are eaten when young.
The pulp of ripe fruit is edible. (Unripe fruit are bitter)

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree 25 m tall. The bark is brown and cracked into angular patches. The branches are in rings. The leaves are 10-25 cm long by 3.5-7.5 cm wide. The base is rounded and it tapers to the tip. The flowers are white or greenish-white. They can be 7.5 cm across. Flowers can be single or in groups near the ends of branches. The fruit is oval. It can be 15 cm long by 8.5 cm wide. They contain a few angular seeds in a yellow pulp. There are 3-8 seeds. They are oily.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests often in swampy situations. It grows on river banks and swampy ground. It does best in deep soils and needs a rainfall above 1,000 mm per year.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Fresh seed must be used. Trees can also be grown from root suckers.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees first flower when about 8 m tall. Fruit are harvested then put together under a tree to ferment and allow the seed to be more easily removed. A mature tree can produce 500 fruit. The fruit weighs about 600 g and the seed 120 g. To produce oil the seeds are crushed and boiled and the oil skimmed off.

NOTES

There are 5 Pentadesma species. They grow in Africa. They all yield edible oil.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambe, G., 2001, Les fruits sauvages comestibles des savanes guinéennes de Côte-d'Ivoire : état de la connaissance par une population locale, les Malinké. Biotechnol. Agron. Soc. Environ. 5(1), 43-48

Atato, A., et al, 2010, Diversity of Edible Wild Fruit Tree Species of Togo. Global Science Books.

Batawila, K., et al, 2007, Diversite et gestion des legumes de cueillete au Togo. African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development 7(3& 4): 66

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1720

Burkill, H. M., 1985, The useful plants of west tropical Africa, Vol. 2. Kew.

Busson, 1965,

Codjia, J. T. C., et al, 2003, Diversity and local valorisation of vegetal edible products in Benin. Cahiers Agricultures 12:1-12

Dalziel, J. M., 1937, The Useful plants of west tropical Africa. Crown Agents for the Colonies London.

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 79

Hahn, K., et al, 2018, The use of wild plants for food: a national scale analysis for Burkina Faso (West Africa). FVSS FoodPlants Supplement

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 470

Hwang, L. C., et al, 2020, Traditional Botanical Uses of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in Seven Counties in Liberia. ACS Symposium Series; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 2020.

Jardin, C., 1970, List of Foods Used In Africa, FAO Nutrition Information Document Series No 2.p 46

Keay, R.W.J., 1989, Trees of Nigeria. Clarendon Press, Oxford. p 104

liberianfaunaflora.org Plant Atlas

Li Xi-wen & Li Jie; Peter F. Stevens, Clusiaceae [Draft], Flora of China

Malan, D. F., et al, 2020, Wild edible plants in four Agni tribes of Central-east and Northeast of Côte d'Ivoire: a comparative study. BIODIVERSITAS Vol. 21, No. 10, pp. 4896-4902

Menninger, E.A., 1977, Edible Nuts of the World. Horticultural Books. Florida p 47

Peters, C. R., O'Brien, E. M., and Drummond, R.B., 1992, Edible Wild plants of Sub-saharan Africa. Kew. p 84

Salako, V. K. et al, 2013, Home gardens: an assessment of their biodiversity and potential contribution to conservation of threatened species and crop wild relatives in Benin. Genet Resour Crop Evol

Savill, P. S. & Fox, J. E. D., Trees of Sierra Leone. p 133

Segnon, A. C. & Achigan-Dako, E. G., 2014, Comparative analysis of diversity and utilization of edible plants in arid and semi-arid areas in Benin. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 2014, 10:80

Sinsin, B. & Avocévou, C., 2007. Pentadesma butyracea Sabine. [Internet] Record from Protabase. van der Vossen, H.A.M. & Mkamilo, G.S. (Editors). PROTA (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa), Wageningen, Netherlands. < http://database.prota.org/search.htm>. Accessed 20 October 2009.

Tanaka,

Trans. Hort. Soc. London 5:427. 1824

Vivien, J. & Faure, J.J., 1985, Abres des forets dense d'Afrique Centrale. Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique. Paris. p 218

Vivien, J., & Faure, J.J., 1996, Fruitiers Sauvages d'Afrique. Especes du Cameroun. CTA p 128

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 507

Wickens, G.E., 1995, Edible Nuts. FAO Non-wood forest products. FAO, Rome. p 132

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/364efafa-3069-45da-a782-5d5a3311a6dc