PLANT FACT SHEET

Piliostigma reticulatum (DC.) Hochst.

GENUS *Piliostigma* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Camel's foot leaf tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves - flavour, Pods drink, Fruit, Vegetable

The leaves are used for drinks. They are also used to flavour porridge. They are acidic. They are also dried. The leaves have a slightly sour flavour and are used for drinks.
The fruit are used for drinks. The young pods are pounded and boiled.
The bark and sap are used to purify water. They help coagulate cloudy matter in the water.

DESCRIPTION

A woody evergreen shrub or small tree. It grows up to 9 m high. The trunk is short and 30 cm across. The bark is deeply cracked. The leaves are alternate and have 2 lobes. The leaf stalk is 1-4 cm long and the leaf blade is 5-12 cm long by 4-18 cm wide. It is heart shaped or rounded at the base. The flowers are of separate sexes and 2.5 cm across. The fruit is an oblong pod 15-30 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. It can be straight or twisted. It is hard and woody. There are many seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in clay depressions and sandy loamy soil. It grows in the Sahel. It grows in areas with a rainfall between 200-1,000 mm per year. It can grow from sea level to 2,000 m above sea level. It grows in savannah woodland. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seeds germinate poorly and this can be improved by soaking them in hot water overnight. Seedlings can be transplanted 5-7 weeks after sowing.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows slowly. It flowers in the dry season.

NOTES

Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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