PLANT FACT SHEET

Lithocarpus elegans (Blume) Hatus ex Soepadmo

GENUS *Lithocarpus* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Spike oak

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Nuts

The fruit or nuts are edible but not popular.
Roasted seeds are eaten.
Small amounts of nuts can be eaten with other foods.

DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree. It grows 4-16 m tall. The leaves are alternate and simple. The leaves have stalks. The leaves are 8-35 cm long by 3-10 cm wide. They are oval or sword shaped. They taper to the tip. They are leathery. The base is wedge shaped or rounded. The flowers are 3 mm across. They are yellowish and occur in clusters. The fruit is an acorn. It is 18 mm across and greenish. It has a cup at the base.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It occurs in dense forest in the plains and low hills. It grows up to 700 m altitude. In Nepal it grows between 1400-2000 m altitude. It grows in forests on hillsides. It grows on sandy soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 300 Lithocarpus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 333 (As Lithocarpus spicatus)

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 1890 (As Quercus spicata)

Castillo, C., 2013, The Archaeobotany of Khao Sam Kaeo and Phu Khao Thong: The Agriculture of Late Prehistoric Southern Thailand. Ph. D. thesis University College, London p 378

Cengel, D. J. & Dany, C., (Eds), 2016, Integrating Forest Biodiversity Resource Management and Sustainable Community Livelihood Development in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest. International Tropical Timber Organization p 119

Gautam, R. S., et al, 2020, Wild Edible Fruits of Nepal. Int. J. Appl. Sci. Biotechnol. Vol 8(3): 289-304

Manandhar, N.P., 2002, Plants and People of Nepal. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon. p 295

Milow, P., et al, 2013, Malaysian species of plants with edible fruits or seeds and their evaluation. International Journal of Fruit Science. 14:1, 1-27

Phon, P., 2000, Plants used in Cambodia. © Pauline Dy Phon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. p 404

Slik, F., www.asianplant.net

Soepadmo, E. and Saw, L. G., 2000, Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak. Forestry Malaysia. Volume Three. p 55

Suwardi, A.B., et al, 2023, The diversity and regional conservation status of wild edible fruit species in Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 24 No. 6. pp 3245-3257

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/3da38f23-8e0b-48be-ac76-d96a91cf5c70