PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanopsis fissa (Champion ex Bentham) Rehder et Wilson

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Big-leaved oak, Big-leaved conic chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts

The seeds can be eaten.
Starch is extracted from the nuts.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows up to 20 m in height. The trunk is 30-50 cm across. The young shoots and leaves are covered with brownish yellow hairs and rusty coloured scales. The young branches are red-purple. They are often angular. The leaves are arranged in spirals. They are yellowish brown. The leaf stalk is 1-2.5 cm long and the leaf blade is oval to oblong. Leaves vary in size. They are often 15-25 cm long by 5-9 cm wide. They are thickly papery. The base is wedge shaped and towards the tip the edge is irregular and wavy. The cup is 1-1.5 cm across. It has 2-4 valves which are curled and covered with dark brown scale like structures. The nut is round to oval. It is 1.3-1.8 cm long by 1.1-1.6 cm wide. The tip is brown-red and hairy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical evergreen forests. It occurs on slopes between 1000 m altitude. It needs shade when young. In China it grows below 1600 m altitude.

NOTES

There are about 120 Castanopsis species. Many have edible nuts.

REFERENCES

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