PLANT FACT SHEET

Aeschynomene elaphroxylon (Guill. et Perr.) Taub.

GENUS *Aeschynomene* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Balsawood tree, Pith-tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It grows about 9 m tall. The stem is swollen and almost cone shaped. It has sticky hairs. The stem is soft. The leaves have 20-40 side leaflets and these are 1-3 cm long by 1 cm wide. They are oblong but flattened at the top and rounded at the base. There are some hairs underneath. There are 1-4 flowers on a stalk 1.3 cm long. The flowers are large and orange-yellow. The fruit are twisted pods. They are 10-14 cm long. They have lumpy hairs. The seeds are dark purple-brown. They are kidney shaped and 6 mm long by 4 mm wide and 2 mm thick.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in lakes and swamps. It is usually in water 1-2 m deep. It grows in east Africa from 500-1,000 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows very quickly.

NOTES

There are 150 Aeschynomene species.

REFERENCES

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/40eaf7f0-991d-4d8f-8d14-921f65b83561