PLANT FACT SHEET

Pterocarpus mildebraedii Harms

GENUS *Pterocarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Camwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The leaves are cooked and eaten as a vegetable. They are used in soups.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 35 m tall. The trunk is 20 m tall and 80 cm across. The bark is pale grey and exudes a red gum when cut. The leaves are compound and 35 cm long. There are 7-15 alternate leaflets with one at the end. These are oval and 6-14 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. They have a round base and taper to the tip. The flowers are in a group 5-15 cm long. The fruit is a round pod 10-12 cm long and with a broad thin wing. There is usually one seed.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland evergreen and semi-deciduous forest in West Africa. It grows up to 1,250 m above sea level. In Tanzania it is restricted to 300-600 m. It can tolerate acid soil.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed. It can be cut back and allowed to re-grow. Plants can be budded. Plants can be grown from stem cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly. There is a flush of edible leaves during the dry season.

NOTES

Also as Papilionaceae. There are about 60 Pterocarpus species.

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