PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanopsis indica (Roxb. ex Lindl.) A. DC.

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian chestnut, Indian castanopsis

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds, Leaves

The fruit or nut is eaten after cooking. It is roasted.
The young shoots are eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A large evergreen tree. It grows 25-30 m high. The trunk is 40-100 cm across. Trees form branches low down. The bark is grey-brown and cracked. The leaf stalk is 5-10 mm long. The leaves are alternate and 7-18 cm long by 3.5-8 cm wide. They are oblong or sword shaped and with teeth along the edge. The base is heart shaped or rounded. The leaf tapers to the tip and can have a sharp tip. Leaves are thickly papery. Underneath there are soft hairs. The flowers do not have stalks and are yellow. They are covered with soft brown hairs. The flowering stalk can be 40 cm long. The cup is round and 3.5-4 cm across. The fruit is a nut. It is enclosed in a covering with thick spines. The nut is cone shaped and 1-1.4 cm across. It is densely hairy.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in northern provinces in Vietnam. It occurs in primary and secondary forest. It occurs below 700-800 m altitude. It grows in sandy soil. In Nepal it grows between 1000-2500 m altitude. It grows in broad leafed evergreen forest below 1500 m in southern China. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In India plants flower and fruit February to December.

NOTES

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

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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