PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanopsis tessellata Hickel & A. Camus

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Zong mao zhui

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts

The seeds contain edible starch.

DESCRIPTION

A large evergreen tree. It grows 25-30 m tall. It is 50-60 cm across. The trunk is straight. Plant parts can be densely hairy. The leaf stalk is 1.5-3 cm long. The leaf blade is oblong and 15-30 cm long by 5-8 cm wide. They base can be wedge shaped. There are 16-22 side veins on each side of the midrib. The male flowers are arranged in spirals. The female flowers are crowded along the stalk. There can be 3 flowers per cup. The cup is 5-6 cm across. The outside is densely covered with spine like bracts. There are 2-3 nuts per cup. They are cone shaped. They are 1.5-1.8 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical monsoon forest. It grows below 1000 m altitude. It can tolerate shade when young. In southern China it grows in broad leafed evergreen forest below 500 m altitude.

NOTES

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

REFERENCES

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