PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia rhynchocarpa K. Schum.

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The seeds are roasted and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub or small tree. It has many branches that are often spreading from near the base. It grows 8 m tall. The trunk can be swollen. The bark is smooth and purple or grey. It peels in papery flakes. The leaf blade is round or oval. The leaves can have 3 leaflets lobes arranged like fingers on a hand. The leaves are 1-5 cm long by 1-5 cm wide. The flowers are green with a red flush. The fruit are hairy pods. These have follicles 4-11 cm long and 2-4 cm wide. These split open. The fruit are spiny. The seeds are 2-4 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows between 5-1,300 m above sea level. It grows in Acacia-Commiphora woodland. It is often over limestone.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

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