PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhodognaphalon stolzii (Ulbr.) A Robyns

GENUS *Rhodognaphalon* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES East African cotton tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Oil

The seeds are cooked, pounded and eaten in vegetable dishes and meat dishes.
They can be roasted and eaten as nuts.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that loses its leaves. It grows 30-36 m high. The trunk is long and straight. The bark is smooth and yellow-green. The leaves are compound with 3-7 leaflets. These are arranged like fingers on a hand. The leaflets are 4 cm long. The flowers have 5 petals and are yellow, red or white. The fruit is a woody capsule. It has 5 valves. It is oval and 6 cm long by 3 cm wide. The seeds are embedded in woolly hairs. There may be 2 varieties differing in the woolly layer under the leaf.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland rainforest. It suits humid locations. In Malawi it occurs between 650-800 m altitude. It will grow in dry places. In East Africa it occurs between 600-1,000 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. They need to be planted fresh. Seed can be stored for 3 months.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

NOTES

There are about 8-20 Bombax species.
Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

REFERENCES

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