PLANT FACT SHEET

Thespesia garckeana var. garckeana Baker f.

GENUS *Thespesia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES African chewing-gum tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 3-13 m tall. The bark is rough and greyish-black. The leaves are alternate and 20 cm long by 20 cm wide. The flowers occur singly and are large. They are yellow with a purple-brown centre. The fruit is a round woody capsule. It has silky hairs. The seeds are 1 cm long and brownish with a woolly floss.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in grassland and open woodlands. It grows up to 1,900 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or by suckers.

REFERENCES

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 551 (As Thespesia trilobata)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/647f4ed2-5783-46e4-b614-ef114810bd9b