PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Sterculia setigera* Delile

**GENUS** *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Star chestnut

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Gum, Leaves, Flower

The seeds are used as a famine food. They are also cooked as a spice.
The gum is used in food preparations. It is soluble in water and used to bind sauces.
The bark is boiled and eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 16 m high. It has small buttresses at the base. The trunk is 1.5 m around. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is grey and flakes off in oblong pieces leaving a light coloured bark underneath. The leaves have 3-5 lobes spread out like fingers on a hand. The leaf stalks are 8 cm long. The leaves are velvety with hairs on both surfaces. Trees are separately male and female. The flowers are dull red or yellowish-green. They are in small groups on last year's shoots. The fruit form 3-5 boat shaped parts. There are about 12 seeds in each section. The layer around the seeds is yellow.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry deciduous savannah woodland. It is often along river-banks. It grows in the Sahel. It can grow in arid places. It can grow in poor soils.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

The gum is tapped by carving the trees at the beginning of the rainy season.

## NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

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