PLANT FACT SHEET

Theobroma subincanum Mart.

GENUS *Theobroma* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Greyish chocolate tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds

The fruit are eaten raw. It is the layer around the seeds that is eaten.
They are also used for juices.
A drink is made from the seeds.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 10-15 m high. The trunk is 25-30 cm across. The leaves are leathery and oblong or oval. They are 22-28 cm long by 10 cm wide. The flowers occur in groups of 1-3 and can be in the axils of leaves or along the branches. The fruit is oval and 7-10 cm long by 5-6 cm across. The outside is hard. There are about 15 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows throughout the Amazon region. It usually grows in highland forests along the banks of rivers. It can be on floodplains. It can grow up to 1,100 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. Seeds are collected from ripe fruit. The pulp is partly decomposed then the seeds removed under running water. Seeds need to be planted fresh and are best in part shade. Seedlings emerge in 20-30 days.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow slowly. The fruit ripen in the rainy season.

NOTES

Also put in the family Byttneriaceae and the Sterculiaceae.

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