PLANT FACT SHEET

Cecropia polystachya Trecul

GENUS *Cecropia* **FAMILY** Urticaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

They are used to make jams and drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 8-15 m high. The trunk is 25-35 cm across. The leaves are alternate. They are 45-50 cm long by 40-45 cm wide. They are divided into 8 lobes. The flowers are small. The fruit hangs down. They are finger like. These are 12-16 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are flexible.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Bolivia they grow up to about 1000 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The ripe fruit are harvested and put into a plastic bag to help them rot then the seeds are removed. The seeds are filtered out with water, then dried. Fresh seed are planted. They germinate in 25-40 days. The seedlings are transplanted when 5-6 cm high.

NOTES

There are 61-75 Cecropia species. They grow in tropical America. Also put in the family Cecropiaceae.

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