PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia villosa Roxb. ex Smith

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Elephant rope tree, Hairy kepuh tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Root, Bark - gum, Fruit

The powdered root in mixed with rice flour to make bread soft and tasty.
The seeds are roasted or baked and eaten.
The bark exudes a gum used as a substitute for gum tragacanth.
The ripe fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that loses its leaves. It grows to 10 m high. The leaves have long stalks. The leaves are 30-48 cm long. They are heart shaped with 5-7 deep lobes. Young leaves are red and leaves are crowded near the top of the tree. There are star like hairs above and straight hairs underneath. The flowers are stalked. They are yellow in rusty hairy flower arrangements.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In Nepal it grows between 300-600 m altitude. It grows in open places. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In NE India fruit are available May to June.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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