PLANT FACT SHEET

Cochlospermum gregorii F. Muell.

GENUS *Cochlospermum* **FAMILY** Bixaceae

COMMON NAMES Kapok bush

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root

The taproot of young plants is cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tall shrub. It grows 3-5 m high and spreads 2-4 m wide. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are 5-15 cm long by 7-18 cm wide. The leaves are deeply divided into 5-7 segments. These are sword shaped and 5-8 cm long by 3 cm wide. The flowers occur when the plant does not have leaves. The flowers are in short clusters. The flowers are yellow and 8-10 cm across. They have 5 petals and many stamens. The fruit is an oblong capsule. It is about 7 cm long. These occur in bunches. They change from green to rusty brown. They split in sections to reveal a cottony silky interior with many seeds.

HABITAT

It suits tropical and subtropical climates. It grows in hot, dry areas. It grows on sandy and sandstone areas.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 20 Cochlospermum species.
Also put in the family Cochlospermaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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