PLANT FACT SHEET

Cola gigantea A. Chev.

GENUS *Cola* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant cola

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seed - spice, Nut

The seeds are used as a condiment for thickening soup.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 25-50 m high. The trunk has narrow buttresses. The crown is dense and spreading. The bark is grey with cracks along it. The leaves are simple and 17-45 cm long by 14-32 cm wide. They are oval and can have 3 lobes. They are deeply heart shaped at the base. The flowering shoots are in the axils of leaves. They are covered with rusty brown hairs. The fruit is a berry made up of 4-5 boat shaped sections. The fruit is about 15 cm long. There are about 8 seeds each 3 cm long by 1.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. In grows in moist semi-deciduous forest in West Africa. It also grow in savannah. It can grow in dry sandy soils and also fairly heavy soils.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. These germinate in 16-40 days. Plants can be budded. Plants can be grown from stem cuttings.

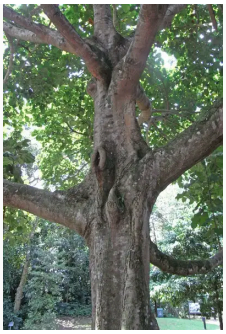
NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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