PLANT FACT SHEET

Rhodognaphalon schumannianum A. Robyns

GENUS *Rhodognaphalon* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Fleece-fruit, East african bombax

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts

The seeds are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A medium to large tree. It grows 15-35 m tall. The bark is greenish-yellow and smooth. The leaves are alternate or scattered. They are arranged like fingers on a hand. There are 3-7 leaflets. These are oblong and 7 cm long by 1.8 cm wide. They have a slender tip. The leaf stalk is about 7 cm long. The flowers are striking pale yellow. They can be 18 cm across and with red stamens. They can occur either singly or in groups of 2-5 in the axils of leaves. The petals are narrow and strap like. The fruit is oval and has 5 valves. It is a woody capsule. It is about 6 cm long by 3 cm wide. It splits to release many smooth brown seeds. They are embedded in pale reddish-brown silky hairs.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in dry open woodland. It grows between 600-1,100 m above sea level.

NOTES

Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

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