PLANT FACT SHEET

Parkia bicolor A. Chev.

GENUS *Parkia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES African locust bean

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit

The seeds are edible and used for thickening soups.
The seeds are used for making alcoholic drinks.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 45 m high. The trunk is 90 cm across. It has buttresses. The crown is wide spreading and loses its leaves. The leaves are alternate and twice divided. There are 10-26 pairs of secondary leaflets. The fruit is a pod 15-40 cm long and 2-3 cm wide. They hang in groups at the ends of stalks. There are 20-30 seeds per pod. They are 1-1.5 cm long by 0.5-1 cm wide.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in closed forest and seasonally deciduous forest in West Africa. It can grow in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by seeds. It needs a sunny position.

NOTES

There are about 30 Parkia species. They are tropical. Also as Mimosaceae.

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