PLANT FACT SHEET

Schotia brachypetala Sonder

GENUS *Schotia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES African Walnut, Tree fuchsia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nuts, flower - nectar, Flowers

The seeds are roasted and eaten.
The flowers are chewed.

DESCRIPTION

A wide spreading tree. It grows up to 15 m tall. The trunk can be 60 cm across. The bark in young trees is smooth and brown but becomes rough in mature trees. The leaves are smooth or hairy. They leaves are 17 cm long by 8 cm wide. They have a leafy structure (stipule) at the base. The leaves are composed of 4-7 pairs of oblong leaflets. The leaflets have lopsided bases. The upper leaflets are the largest. The flowers are crimson and cup shaped. The flowers face upwards and are filled with nectar. This nectar is edible. It is the sepals and stamen, not the petals that make up the attractive flower. The flowers are produced on the old wood. The pods are brown and 12 cm long by 5 cm wide. They contain 6 light brown seeds. These have a lime green layer (aril) over one end. The seeds are edible after roasting.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to E and S Africa. It grows in dry savannah. It also grows along streams in semi-desert areas. It can grow in arid places. It usually grows in termite mounds. In Zimbabwe it grows between 620-1,470 m above sea level. Melbourne Botanical gardens. Hobart Botanical Gardens. National Arboretum Canberra. It suits hardiness zones 9-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. The seeds germinate well. Seedlings also transplant easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is very slow growing on heavy soils. It grows fast in sandy soils.

NOTES

Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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