PLANT FACT SHEET

Edibility uncertain
It has not been confirmed that this plant is safe to eat. Do not eat it on the strength of this fact sheet alone.

Castanopsis hystrix J.D. Hooker & Thompson ex A. DC.

GENUS *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds, Flowers

The seed or nut is eaten raw or roasted. It is used in stir fries.

DESCRIPTION

A large evergreen tree. It grows 25-30 m tall. The trunk is 1 m across. The young leaves are purple-brown. They bare slender and hairy. The leaf stalk is 1 cm long. The leaves are 2.5-15 cm long by 1.5-5 cm wide. They are oval or sword shaped. They are papery to thinly leathery. The base is rounded and unequal. There are fine reddish hairs underneath. There are 9-15 sides veins on each side of the midrib. The flowers are yellow and in drooping spikes. They occur singly in the axils of leaves. They are 15 cm long. The fruit is a nut 0.8-1.5 cm across. It is in a cup 2.5-4 cm across. This splits into 4 segments.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Vietnam it grows between 300-1500 m altitude. In Nepal they grow between 1000-2500 m altitude. Seedlings require shade. It grows in subtropical broad-leaved evergreen forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It can be cut back and will re-grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees grow quickly after 5 years of age. It starts flowering and fruiting after 15 years. There are about 1,200 nuts per kg.

NOTES

There are about 120 Castanopsis species. Many have edible nuts.

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