PLANT FACT SHEET

Handroanthus impetiginosus (Mart. ex A. P. de Candolle) Mattos

GENUS *Handroanthus* **FAMILY** Bignoniaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Bark - tea, Flowers

The inner bark is used as a food supplement and brewed into a tea.
Caution: It is poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 8-12 m in open places and 20-30 m in forests. The trunk is 60-90 cm across. The leaves are compound. They have 5 leaflets. These are hairy in both sides. The leaves are 9-18 cm long and 4-10 cm wide.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in the rainforest in the Amazon. Once well established it can tolerate dry conditions. In Brisbane Botanical Gardens. In Townsville palmetum.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The fruit when ripe are harvested from the tree then left in the sun to open and release the seeds. Seeds can be stored only for 3 months. Seed should be sown fresh and germinate in 10-12 days. Seedlings can be transplanted into the field in months.

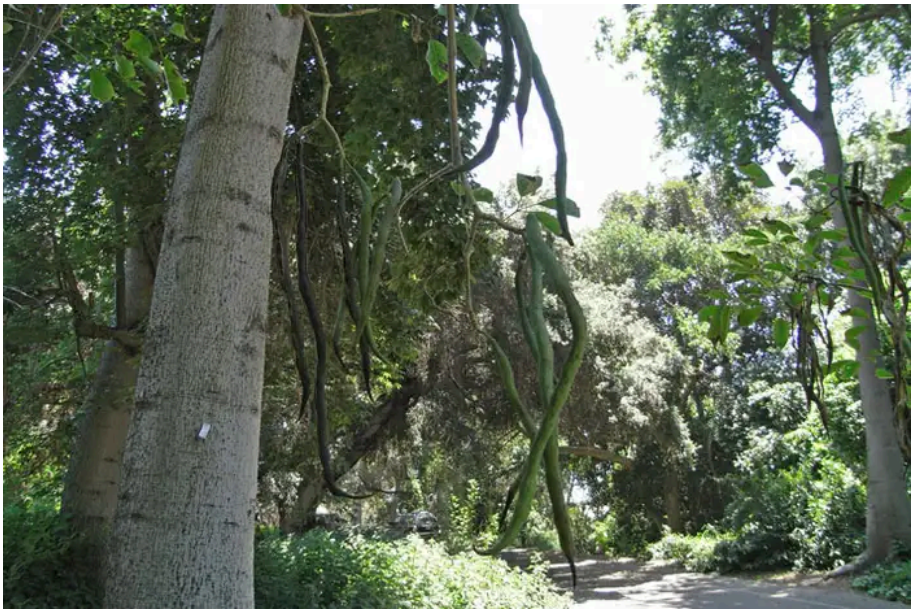
Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly. They can be 3.5 m high in 2 years.

NOTES

There are about 100 Tabebuia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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