PLANT FACT SHEET

Parkia timoriana (DC.) Merr.

GENUS *Parkia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Petai hutan, Forest sataw tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Spice, Pods, Fruit, Flowers

The seeds are bitter but may be eaten after roasting or boiling.
The ripe fruit are eaten. The fruit are also used for chutney.
The germinated seeds are eaten.
The young tender pods are cooked and eaten, especially with fish. The young pods and germinated seeds are eaten. The pods are also used as flavouring.
The leaves are boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows up to 50 m high and can be 2.5 m across the trunk. There are often buttresses. The bark is smooth and can be finely cracked. The leaves are compound. The first leaf stalk and axis is 18-42 cm long. There is a gland on the leaf stalk 1.5-4 cm from the base. There are 14-32 pairs of branches of the leaf and 52-72 pairs of leaflets. They are slightly S shaped and 6-11 mm long by 1-2 mm wide. The edges of the leaflets overlap. There are stiff white hairs around the edges of the leaflets. The flower stalks have a compound flower cluster. The fruit are pods which are flat and strap shaped. The pods are 20-33 cm long by 3.9-5.5 cm wide. There are 12-19 seeds per pod. They lie horizontally across the pod. They are 1.4-2 cm long. The seed coat is hard and dark brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in lowland rainforest and dry evergreen forest. They occur from sea level to 600 m altitude but occasionally up to 1,300 m. They are well scattered throughout the lower forested regions of the Philippines.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. It is best to soak the seeds in warm water.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Nagaland pods are available June to November.

NOTES

Various parts are used in medicine. Also as Mimosaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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