



PLANT FACT SHEET

Tara spinosa (Molina) Britton & Rose

GENUS *Tara* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Spiny caesalpinia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds coat, Leaves - spice

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 6 m high and spreads 5 m wide. The trunk is erect and slender. It has prickles on the branches. The leaves have leaflets along the stalk. The flowers are yellow. They have a scent. They grow in dense groups. The fruit are pods. They are 10 cm long by 2.5 cm wide. The seeds are large and round and black. There are 4-7 seeds in a pod.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It is best in a rich, moist, well-drained soil. It needs a protected sunny position. It is damaged by drought or frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seed. The seed need treatment before planting.

NOTES

There are about 150 Caesalpinia species. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

- Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 182
- Grandtner, M. M. & Chevrette, J., 2013, Dictionary of Trees, Volume 2: South America: Nomenclature, Taxonomy and Ecology. Academic Press p 88
- Leon-Lobos, P., et al, 2022, Patterns of Traditional and Modern Uses of Wild Edible Native Plants of Chile: Challenges and Future Perspectives. Plants (Basel) v 11 (6) Table S1 (As Tara spinosa)
- Kew Plants of the World On line
- Roa, J. A. G. & Boada, D. S. G., 2018, Fundación para el Fortalecimiento de la Fruticultura y Plantas Alimenticias no Convencionales en Colombia. (As Tara spinosa)
- Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 597
- Torre, de la, L., et al, 2008, Enciclopedia de las Plantas Útiles del Ecuador. Herbario QCA. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. p 334
- Van den Eynden, V., et al, 2003, Wild Foods from South Ecuador. Economic Botany 57(4): 576-603
- Van den Eynden, V., 2004, Use and management of edible non-crop plants in southern Ecuador, Ph D dissertation. p 108

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET <https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/b122bc31-2f1b-4735-bca4-9a3ee3f91a9f>