PLANT FACT SHEET

Ceiba chodatii (Hassl.) Ravenna

GENUS *Ceiba* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Floss silk tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, Fruit

The tender leaf buds are eaten as a vegetable.
The seeds are eaten.
The inner part of the unripe fruit is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that loses its leaves. It grows about 12 m tall. The trunk is bottle shaped and swollen. There are thick branches at the top of the swollen trunk. The crown is round. The bark is smooth and there are ridges upwards and wrinkles across. It has cone shaped spines. The leaves are alternate and shaped like fingers on a hand. They have 5 lobes and teeth along the edge. The flowers are large and occur singly. They are creamy white with a few purple specks. They are 15 cm long. The fruit is a large capsule that is oblong and green. It splits open to reveal black seeds in white fibres. The trunk stores water.

HABITAT

It is a tropical and subtropical plant. It grows in seasonally dry woodlands. In Argentina it grows between 400-1,200 m above sea level.

NOTES

Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

REFERENCES

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