PLANT FACT SHEET

Lecythis ampla Miers

GENUS *Lecythis* **FAMILY** Lecythidaceae

COMMON NAMES Monkey pot, Ample monkey pot tree, Jicaro

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The nuts are eaten.
Caution: The seeds can be poisonous if grown on soils high in selenium.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 40 m high. The trunk is straight. The bark is brown and has cracks along it. The leaves are simple and alternate. They are 8 cm long. The leaves have a wavy edge and fine teeth along the edge. The flowers are 3 cm across. They have 6 blue to pink petals. The fruit is round and has a thick woody wall. It is 20 cm across. It has a lip that opens on a 9 cm wide hole. There are up to 50 seeds inside. The seeds are 4-5 cm long and have a groove. They are attached to the inside of the pot by fleshy stalks

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In Costa Rica it grows between 5 and 500 m altitude. It grows in wet forest.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

It is an endangered species.

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