PLANT FACT SHEET

Pterocarpus lucens Lepr. ex Guill. et Perr.

GENUS *Pterocarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Small-leaved kiaat, Small-leaved bloodwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Vegetable

The young leaves are cooked and used as a vegetable. They are also used in sauces.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It often becomes shrubby. It grows 7-10 m high. The bark is smooth and pale grey and flakes like guava bark. The leaves are made up of 2-4 pairs of opposite leaflets and one leaflet at the end. The leaflets are small and oval. They are 2-3 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. Sometimes they are larger. They are light green and droop. The base is unequal. The flowers are pale yellow and pea-shaped. They are in long slender sprays. These are 7-22 cm long. The fruit is a small oval flattened pod. It is 5 cm long by 3 cm wide. It has a swelling over the seed case. There is a hard wing like a membrane.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in low altitude woodland. It is often on deep, sandy soils. It grows in dry savannah between the Sahara and Sahel in West Africa. It needs between 300-700 mm of rain each year. It can grow in arid places.

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