PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Castanopsis fordii* Hance

**GENUS** *Castanopsis* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Hairy chestnut

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Nuts

The nuts are eaten raw.

## DESCRIPTION

A tree. The young parts have a brown velvety covering. The leaf stalk is 1-3 mm long. The leaf blade is oblong to sword shaped and 9-18 cm long by 3-7 cm wide. They are leathery. The base is heart shaped with ear like lobes. The edges turn up. The leaf narrows to a sharp tip. The main vein in sunken on the upper surface. There are 14-18 side veins on each side of the midrib. The flower arrangement is a dense spike. It is 6-12 cm long. The cup like structure in 5-6 cm across. It splits into 4 or occasionally 5 regular parts. There are spine like bracts over this cup. There is 1 nut per cup. These are cone shaped and 1.2-1.5 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide. They are densely hairy.

## HABITAT

They grow in broad leafed forest below 1200 m altitude in China.

## NOTES

There are about 120 Castanopsis species. Many have edible nuts.

## REFERENCES

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