PLANT FACT SHEET

Pentaclethra eetveldeana De Wild & T. Durand

GENUS *Pentaclethra* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds - oil, Seeds

The seeds are eaten roasted or crushed.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows 30 m tall. The trunk is 50 cm across. It has small buttresses. The bark is grey and fissured. The crown is dome shaped. The young branches are hairy. The leaves are alternate and compound. They are twice divided with leaflets along the stalk. The leaves are 40 cm long. There are 9-16 pairs of opposite leaflet bearing stalks. These are 4-12 cm long. They have 15-30 pairs of leaflets. The leaflets are 8-13 mm long by 2-3 mm wide. The flowers are in a group in the axils of leaves or at the ends of branches. These can be 30 cm long with many flowers. The fruit is a long pod 20 cm long by 4 cm wide. It is reddish brown and has a stripe along it. It opens explosively on the tree then curves backwards. There are 3-8 seeds. They are oval and flattened. They are 2-3 cm long by 2-2.5 cm wide. They are smooth and reddish-brown.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in rainforest and in secondary forest. It suits humid locations.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. It is best to plant the seeds directly in the field and this avoids damaging the taproot.

NOTES

There are 3 Pentaclethra species. Also as Mimosaceae.

REFERENCES

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