PLANT FACT SHEET

Ticanto crista (L.) R. Clark & Gagnon

GENUS *Ticanto* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Wood Gossip, Bonduc nut, Fever nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Medicine

CAUTION: The seeds are poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A half woody climber. It may or may not have spines. It grows 3 m high and spreads 3 m wide. The leaves are compound and there are usually curved spines underneath. There are 2-10 leaflets along 2-5 pairs of leaf divisions. The leaflets are 1.5-10 cm long and 1-4 cm wide. The flowers have 5 petals. One petal is yellow and the others are yellow with red veins. They are 5-9 mm long. The fruit is a pod. It is dark brown and 4-7.5 cm long by 2.5-3.5 cm wide. There is usually one dark brown seed. It is 1.5-2.5 cm long.

This record needs checking.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits seasonally dry tropical regions. It grows in rainforests and mangrove swamps. It needs a rich well-drained soil and a sunny location. It is damaged by drought and frost. It grows on mountain slopes in southern China between 400-1,500 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need treatment before planting.

NOTES

There are about 150 Caesalpinia species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. It is used in medicine. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

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