PLANT FACT SHEET

Sterculia monosperma Ventenat

GENUS *Sterculia* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES China chestnut, Seven sister's fruit

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Nut

The seeds are boiled and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It is in the same family as cocoa. The tree is always green. It grows to 10-30 m tall. The main stem is short but with many branches. The young branches are hairy. The leaves are at the tips of the shoots. The leaves are large and leathery. They are 12.5-22.5 cm long by 7.5-12.5 cm wide. Both male and female flowers occur on the same tree. The flowers are pinkish and about 1.2 cm across. They are in drooping panicles. The flowers occur at the ends of branches. The fruit are pods that change from green to red as they ripen. There are usually 3-5 pods in a group. The pods are covered with fine soft hairs. The pods are 7.5-10 cm long and 5 cm wide. The pods split open showing the seeds. There are 1-3 seeds. The seeds are 2.5-5 cm long and 1.2-2.5 cm wide. The seeds are black, shiny and sticky.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot, wet tropical lowlands. It is native to S China. The tree occurs mostly in the state of Perak in Malaysia.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Thailand it flowers and fruits October to April.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/d610a901-32b0-4e0e-a116-034a4a8b667d