PLANT FACT SHEET

Scaphium macropodum (Miq.) Beumee ex K. Heyne

GENUS *Scaphium* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Malva nut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Nuts, Seed

The dried arillus (layer around the seeds) is soaked in water to give a sweet drink. This is called 'cheng tng'. The flesh of the fruit is soaked in water to obtain a jelly like texture than is then used as a dessert.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15-45 m tall. The trunk can be 80 cm across. The leaves are oval and are rounded at the base. They are simple and alternate and have long leaf stalks. The leaves on young trees have lobes like fingers on a hand. The leaves are oval and 15-25 cm long by 7-12 cm wide. The flowers are in panicles and are small and pale yellow. The fruit are large papery follicles. They form a boat shaped structure with one seed on one end. The wings can be 22 cm long.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in wet dense forests between 300 and 600 m altitude in Indochina. It can be up to 1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

Also put in the family Sterculiaceae.
The fruit are used as medicine.

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