PLANT FACT SHEET

Pseudobombax ellipticum (Kunth) Dugand

GENUS *Pseudobombax* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Shaving brush tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds

Seeds of the white-flowered form are eaten as a snack food.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that loses its leaves. It grows 15 m high and spreads 5 m wide. The stem is stout and erect. The bark is greenish. The leaves are green and have 5 large leaflets like fingers. The flowers are purple and 10 cm long. They have 5 petals that curve back. There are a cluster of silk pink stamens.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs light, well-drained soils and an open sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Cacti house.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

Also put in the family Bombacaceae. In the subfamily Bombacoideae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Alcorn, (As Bombax ellipticum)

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 154 (As Bombax ellipticum)

Cruz, I. M., et al, 2015, Edible fruits and seeds in the State of Mexico. Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Agricolas. Vol. 6. Num. 2 pp 331-346

Das, G., et al, 2021, Systematics, Phytochemistry, Biological Activities and Health Promoting Effects of the Plants from the Subfamily Bombacoideae (Family Malvaceae). Plants Apr. 10(4):651

Ekman Herbarium records Haiti (As Bombax ellipticum)

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 50 (As Bombax ellipticum)

F. W. H. A. von Humboldt et al., Nov. gen. sp. 5:233[folio]; 5:299[quarto]. 1822 (As Bombax ellipticum)

Hellmuth, N. M., 2013, Maya Ethnobotany. FLAAR Reports. p 19

Kermath, B. M., et al, 2014, Food Plants in the Americas: A survey of the domesticated, cultivated and wild plants used for Human food in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. On line draft. p 718

Piedra-Malagón, E. M., et al, 2022, Edible native plants of the Gulf of Mexico Province. Biodiversity Data Journal 10: e80565 p 24

Segura, S., et al, 2018, The edible fruit species in Mexico. Genet Resour Crop Evol (2018) 65:1767–1793

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ea2f00cf-e319-4220-aa1e-35e67a46c7b3