

Tabebuia serratifolia

(Vahl) Nicholson

Bignoniaceae

LOCAL NAMES

Dutch (groenhart); English (yellow poui, trumpet flower tree, noib wood, May-flower, greenheart, bethabara, bastard lignum-vitae, arewood); Portuguese (pau d'Arco, ipe tobacco, ipe)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Tabebuia serratifolia is a large, deciduous tree, up to 37 m high and 3 m in trunk diameter, that will square 30 cm of heartwood. Trunk usually straight and frequently buttressed.

Flowers profuse, clear yellow, borne at intervals during the dry season.

Fruit a linear dehiscent capsule containing many winged seeds.

The generic name is after its Brazilian local name. The specific epithet means serrate leaved.



Brilliant yellow flowers (Ellis RP)



The petals are frilly and crinkled. The calyx is brown and hairy. (Ellis RP)

ECOLOGY

The species is widely distributed in tropical South America from Bolivia and Brazil to Colombia and Trinidad, particularly the Guyana and Trinidad, where it is widely distributed in the north of the island in climax evergreen forest. It forms pure stands in some areas but prefers the sides and tops of ridges to swampy ground.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Venezuela, Virgin Islands (US)

Exotic: India, Kenya



The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.

PRODUCTS

Timber: Heartwood of freshly cut wood is yellowish-green and the sapwood, which is 1.2-8.8 cm wide, is cream coloured. The dry heartwood is light to dark olive-brown, often with lighter or darker streaks. The dry sapwood is white or greyish-white. The grain is straight to very irregular. *T. serratifolia* dries rapidly during air seasoning in spite of its high density, and the wood is rated easy to season. Timber very hard, heavy, strong and very durable; used for sleepers, house posts, bridge building. The wood is reputed to be highly resistant to decay.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

Seeds do not retain viability for long periods in storage. Storage in seed flasks at 10 deg. C have maintained seed viability the longest.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Despite its hardness and density, *T. serratifolia* is susceptible to marine-borer attack.

FURTHER READNG

Anon. 1986. The useful plants of India. Publications & Information Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi, India.

Lanzara P. and Pizzetti M. 1978. Simon & Schuster's Guide to Trees. New York: Simon and Schuster

Streets RJ. 1962. Exotic forest trees in the British Commonwealth. Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Young JA, Young CG. 1992. Seeds of woody plants in North America. Dioscorides Press, Oregon, USA.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Orwa C, A Mutua, Kindt R , Jamnadass R, S Anthony. 2009 Agroforestry Database:a tree reference and selection guide version 4.0 (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/treedbs/treedatabases.asp>)