

Pometia pinnata

kasai

J.R. Forster & J.G. Forster

Sapindaceae

LOCAL NAMES

Burmese (paga-nyet-su ava); Filipino (tugau); Indonesian (leungsir, ihi mendek, tawan, kayu sapi); Lao (Sino-Tibetan) (kwaang, chieng dong); Malay (kasai daun besar, langsir, sibu); Thai (saen ta lom, sai); Trade name (kasai); Vietnamese (tr[uw][owf]ng m[aa]t, m[aws]c ken)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Pometia pinnata is a medium-sized to fairly large tree up to 40(-47) m tall, with bole up to 100(-140) cm in diameter.

Leaves with 3-13 pairs of leaflets having dentate margins, and alternate secondary veins ending in a tooth.

Inflorescence and calyx often hairy.

P. pinnata is an extremely variable species. No less than 8 forms have been recognized and given taxonomic status, but because still other and intermediate forms are encountered, this distinction is probably only useful in e.g. breeding. For reasons of completeness the 8 forms distinguished are given here: f. *pinnata* (synonym: *P. coriacea* Radlk., 1913); f. *acuminata* (Hook.f.) Jacobs (synonyms: *P. acuminata* (Hook.f.) Radlk., 1877, *P. annamica* Gagn., 1947); f. *alnifolia* (Blume) Jacobs (synonym: *P. alnifolia* (Blume) Radlk., 1877); f. *cuspidata* (Blume) Jacobs; f. *glabra* (Blume) Jacobs (synonym: *P. pinnata* var. *javanica* Koord. & Valetton, 1903); f. *macrocarpa* (Kurz) Jacobs (synonym: *P. macrocarpa* Kurz, 1875); f. *repandra* Jacobs; f. *tomentosa* (Blume) Jacobs (synonym: *P. tomentosa* (Blume) Teijsm. & Binnend., 1866).

BIOLOGY

Bisexual and male flowers are reported to occur on a single tree of *P. pinnata*, but the structurally hermaphrodite flowers are functionally female with no anther dehiscence. Both cross-fertilization and self-fertilization occur. Usually there are 3-4 times as many male as female flowers. Dispersal of the fruits is probably mostly by bats and birds.



Ton fruit (French B.)



Ton leaf (French B.)

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ECOLOGY

P. pinnata occurs in primary and secondary forests.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Mean annual rainfall: 1 000-4 600 mm, Mean annual temperature: 20-29 deg.C

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: India, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka

Exotic:



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.

kasai

PRODUCTS

Food: The tree is sometimes cultivated for its fruits which can have a thick and sweet-tasting arilode. The seeds are also edible.

Fuel: The wood is also used for charcoal production.

Timber: Heartwood light to dark red, medium dark red-brown, sometimes purplish, sometimes with dark coloured ribbons on radial and tangential sections, not always well demarcated from the pink or buff-coloured sapwood. Grain straight or slightly interlocked. Texture rather coarse but even; wood surface glossy. The wood density *P. pinnata* is 500-990 kg/m cubic at 15% moisture content. The timber is used as kasai.

Medicine: The leaves and bark are used medicinally.

SERVICES

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TREE MANAGEMENT

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

PESTS AND DISEASES

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