

## **Shorea negrosensis**

red lauan, Philippine red mahogany

Foxw.

Dipterocarpaceae

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### **LOCAL NAMES**

Filipino (malatabang); Trade name (red lauan, Philippine red mahogany)

### **BOTANIC DESCRIPTION**

*Shorea negrosensis* is a large tree up to 50 m tall, with bole branchless for 20-30 m and a diameter up to 200 cm. The tree is prominently buttressed.

Leaves ovate to elliptical, thinly leathery, 6.5-17 cm x 3-7.5 cm, with (8-) 11-15 pairs of secondary veins.

Stamens about 48, anthers linear-oblong with short appendages, stylopodium indistinct.

Fruit calyce lobes large up to 7 x 13 cm.

### **BIOLOGY**

The pollinators of *S. negrosensis* are insects.

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### ECOLOGY

*S. negrosensis* is common and occurs gregariously in evergreen and seasonal dipterocarp forests at low altitudes.

### BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Altitude: 0-1 000 m, Mean annual rainfall: 1 200-2 700 mm, Mean annual temperature: 21-34 deg.C

### DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Philippines

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.

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### PRODUCTS

Apiculture: The flowers are visited by insects for pollen.

Timber: In the Philippines red lauan is a valuable export timber, in 1989 the export value of sawn timber was US \$ 125 million. The bark is considered to have a great potential for use as building board. *S. negrosensis* yields a pulp with high over-all strength properties. The wood density is 420-805 kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 15% moisture content. The timber is commonly used as a compression member in timber framed structures. Metham sodium and methyl isothiocyanate (MITC) are used in protecting and eliminating wood fungal decay.

Tannin or dyestuff: *S. negrosensis* bark is a suitable source of extract for tanning soles, the bark contains 9-10% tannin.

Medicine: It is reported that *S. negrosensis* wood extractives are tumour-inhibiting.

### SERVICES

Erosion control: The tree is important in protecting watershed areas.

Reclamation: *S. negrosensis* has potential in reforestation.

Soil improver: Leaf litter of *S. negrosensis* on decay improves soil quality.

Boundary or barrier or support: *S. negrosensis* provides wood used in making fencing material.

Intercropping: The species is promising for agroforestry, in experiments *S. negrosensis* sawdust extracts did not show allelopathic effects on rice and trifoliate orange.

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### **FURTHER READNG**

CABI. 2000. Global Forestry Compendium. CD-ROM. CABI

Garcia PR et al. 1983. Germination of narig (*Vatica mangachapoi* Blanco) and red lauan (*Shorea negrosensis* Foxw.) seeds in various media. *Sylvatrop.* 8(2-4): 133-137.

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Gotoh T. 1994. Insect borers of some valuable timber species in Thailand. *Tropical Forestry.* 30: 30-37.

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### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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