

LOCAL NAMES

English (wild dividivi, redwood); French (amourette); Javanese (mlanding sabrang, mlanding merah)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION

Acacia glauca is an erect, unarmed shrub or small tree, 1-3(-5) m tall; crown open, branches many, terete, sparsely pubescent to glabrous, younger twigs more strigose; bark dark red.

Leaves bipinnately or sometimes tripinnately compound, pinnae in 2-10 pairs, 4-9 cm long, rachis 8-12 cm long, glandless; leaflets 10-30 pairs per pinna, opposite, oblong-lanceolate, 4-10 mm x 1-2 mm, unequal sided, base rounded, top blunt with acute tip, hairy to glabrescent; stipules lanceolate, early caducous.

Inflorescence a short, sometimes subcapitate, 20-40-flowered spike, 2-6 together in upper axils, the uppermost arranged in racemes; peduncle up to 2.5 cm long, pedicel 1-2 mm, articulated; flowers 5-merous, bisexual, white turning yellowish; calyx campanulate, 0.5-1 mm long, 5-lobed; corolla tubular, 5-lobed, 2-4 mm long; stamens numerous, ovary stipitate with 5 mm long style.

Fruit a flat, membranous pod, oblong to strap-shaped, 1.5-10 cm x 0.5-2 cm, stalk about 1 cm long, apiculate, glossy brown, 1-8 seeded, valves swollen where seeds develop, transversely veined along the margins.

Seeds ovoid to lenticular, brown.

The generic name 'acacia' comes from the Greek word 'akis', meaning point or barb.

BIOLOGY

Flowering and fruiting may start as early as 6 months and flowering occurs throughout the year.

ECOLOGY

A. glauca occurs in secondary vegetation, especially on limestone, but also on non-calcareous soils. It prefers dry climate and even grows where rainfall is as low as 200-500 mm and relative humidity 55-70 %. It performs poorly under low temperature and does not tolerate frost and shade.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

Altitude: 0-1 200 m

Mean annual rainfall: 200-500 mm

Soil type: The shrub thrives on limestone and various other soil types.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Barbados

Exotic: Indonesia, Philippines



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

Fodder: It is used as forage in Timor and seeds are fed to chicken in Java. It has been used as a host plant for the lac insect in Java. Analysis of Indonesian leaves gave 27% crude protein.

Fuel: The wood is suitable for fuel.

Timber: Wood is used for making household tools.

Medicine: An infusion of the roots or leaves in vinegar and of the bark in water is used as a gargle to relieve sore throat and alleviate oral inflammations in the Caribbean. A decoction of peeled branches with vinegar is taken as a cough remedy.

SERVICES

Erosion control: *A. glauca* is planted as a stabilizer of terrace ridges.

Reclamation: It is mainly used to rehabilitate degraded and denuded lands.

Soil improver: It performs very well on poor soils and in view of its unpalatability to livestock, its use as an alternative to *L. leucocephala* as a shrub legume deserves wider attention.

Ornamental: The tree is a common ornamental throughout the tropics.

Intercropping: It was originally planted as an undershrub in teak plantations in Indonesia.

TREE MANAGEMENT

A. glauca extends itself by root suckers from the comparatively superficial root system. It can reach a height of about 3 m and diameter of 3 cm in 13 months. Growth is robust in the juvenile phase is often stronger than in *Leucaena leucocephala* but loses this advantage after 6 months. The plant tolerates heavy pruning.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

There are 91 000 seeds/kg. Germination is irregular unless seeds are scarified or treated with hot water.

PESTS AND DISEASES

It is generally free of diseases and pests.

FURTHER READNG

Faridah Hanum I, van der Maesen LJG (eds.). 1997. Plant Resources of South-East Asia No 11. Auxillary Plants. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, the Netherlands.

Polhill RM and Stearn WT. 1976. Linnaeus's notes on Plumier drawings with special reference to *Mimosa latisiliqua*. Typification of *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Lysiloma latisiliquum* and *Acacia glauca*. *Taxon*. 25(2-3): 323-325.

Wit HCD de. 1975. Typification of *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) De Wit, *Lysiloma latisiliquum* (L.) Bth., and *Acacia glauca* (L.) Moench. *Taxon*. 24(2-3): 349-352.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Orwa C, Mutua A , Kindt R , Jamnadass R, Simons A. 2009. Agroforestry Database:a tree reference and selection guide version 4.0 (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/af/treedb/>)