Litsea monopetala (Roxb.) Persoon

Lauraceae

LOCAL NAMES
Burmese (ondon laukya); Hindi (maidalagadil,singran,bastuva,rapamba,muga,meda,kalmara,kavkawa); Indonesian (huru manuk); Malay (bangang); Nepali (kutmiro,soalu,ratmanti,kutmero); Thai (kathang)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION
Litsea monopetala is a small tree up to 18 m tall, bole straight to crooked, up to 60 cm in diameter, bark surface longitudinally fissured, dark greyish, inner bark brown mottled.

Leaves alternate, 4.5-17 cm x 2.5-10 cm, blunt to acute, glabrous above, sparsely hairy below, midrib sunken above, with 6-13 pairs of secondary veins which are sunken above, tertiary venation scalariform, distinct below, petiole 1-2.5 cm long.

Flowers in peduncled umbellules in short racemes, with (4-)6 tepals and 9-12 stamens.

Fruit oblong to ellipsoid, 0.7-1.2 cm long, seated on a small flat perianth cup.

BIOLOGY
Flower appears in March-April and fruit ripen in July-August. The fruits of L. monopetala are thought to be dispersed by bats.

ECOLOGY
L. monopetala is locally common in mixed lowland and montane evergreen or semi-deciduous forest.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS
Altitude: Up to 1500 m.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand
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.

PRODUCTS
Fodder: Leaves are the principal food of the muga silkworm (Antheraea assama) in India and are used for fodder in Nepal.

Timber: The density of the wood is about 540 kg/m cubic at 15% moisture content. The wood is used as medang, e.g. for planks and tool handles, house building, furniture and plywood production.

Medicine: Seeds contain an oil which is used medicinally as ointments for rheumatism manufacturing candle in India . Bark is used as astringent and in diarrhoea.

SERVICES

TREE MANAGEMENT
L. monopetala coppice well when lopped.

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

PESTS AND DISEASES

FURTHER READNG

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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