MULBERRY FAMILY
Moraceae

COMMON NAMES
English: paper mulberry, tapa cloth tree
Cambodia: krung tehs, mon barang
Indonesia: daluang, saeh
Myanmar: malaing
Thailand: por-gra-saa, por-saa, ton-saa
Vietnam: cây dứa

DESCRIPTION
Small tree or shrub with milky sap (20 m or higher) and a trunk diameter of 0.6 m; round or spreading crown, branches smooth and mottled grey, marked with orange-tan stipular scars, shallow rooted; sheds most of its leaves at the end of the growing season.

Bark: Tan or light grey with pale orange to light tan stripes, becoming yellowish with age, smooth to slightly fissured.

Leaves: Greyish, rough surface above and fuzzy-downy below, simple, shape variable – either egg-shaped with a broad and round base tapering towards the end, heart-shaped or deeply lobed (7–20 cm long), margins with forward-pointing fine projections or teeth; held alternately or almost opposite each other on stems; leaf stalks are 3–10 cm long.

Flowers: Male flowers yellowish-white in clusters (3.5–7.5 cm); female flowers in rounded clusters, round heads (about 1.3 cm wide), hairy.

Fruits: Syncarp (a fleshy compound fruit), berry-like, initially green turning red, purple to orange as it matures, fleshy, round (1–2 cm wide) with many embedded or protruding tiny red seeds.

ORIGIN
China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Fuelwood, fodder, paper, pulp, shade and ornament.

INVADES
Roadsides, disturbed areas, wastelands, urban open space, plantations, forest edges/gaps and riparian vegetation.

IMPACTS
Forms dense stands that displace native species, prevent forest regeneration and reduce water availability. In Pakistan, *B. papyrifera* limits the growth of *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. (Fabaceae), *Morus alba* L. (Moraceae) and *Ziziphus* sp. In the Philippines, native species such as *Trema orientalis* (L.) Blume (Cannabaceae), *Macaranga tariarius* (L.) Müll. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae), *Melanolepis multiglandulosus* (Reinw. ex Blume) Rohrb. & Zoll. (Euphorbiaceae), *Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae), *Ficus nota* (Blanco) Merr. (Moraceae), *Ficus septica* Burm., *Ficus ulmifolia* Lam., *Polyscias nodosa* (Blume) Seem (Araliaceae), and other species were displaced by paper mulberry (Baguion et al., 2003). Paper mulberry produces considerable amounts of allergenic pollen which has been shown to exacerbate asthma in sufferers. In Islamabad, Pakistan, paper mulberry can account for 75% of the total pollen count contributing to ill health and even death in the old and infirm.