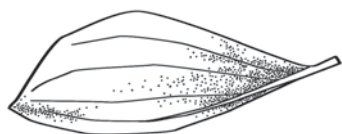




Acacia mangium



PEA FAMILY

Fabaceae; Subfamily: Mimosaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: brown salwood, hickory wattle, mangium

Cambodia: acacia sleuk thom

Indonesia: mange hutan, nak, sabah salwood, tongke hutan

Philippines: maber

Thailand: krathinthepha

Vietnam: keo tai tuong

DESCRIPTION

Evergreen tree with no thorns/spines (30–35 m tall) and often with a straight trunk [25–50 (–90) cm in diameter].

Bark: Greenish and smooth in young trees; rough, greyish brown to dark brown, hard, fissured near the base of older trees.

Leaves: Dark green, 'leaves' are expanded leaf stalks called phyllodes, straight on one side and slightly curved on the other (25 cm long and 3.5–10 cm wide), 4–5 main longitudinal veins, gland conspicuous at the base of the phyllodes.

Flowers: Numerous tiny white or cream flowers in loose spikes (5–12 cm long).

Fruits: Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green turning brown as they mature (8–10 cm long and 0.3–0.5 cm wide), initially straight and broad but irregularly coiled when ripe; seeds are black and shiny (3–5 mm long and 2–3 mm wide), attached to the pods by an orange-to-red folded appendage.

ORIGIN

Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Fuelwood, building materials, timber, fibre, tannins, shade, shelter and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed areas, wastelands, urban open space, plantations, croplands, forest edges/gaps, woodland edges/gaps and coastal areas.

IMPACTS

In forests in Brunei *A. mangium* has displaced many native plants and, in particular, heath forest species (Osunkoya *et al.*, 2005). The tree has also invaded fruit and coffee farms and has a negative impact on the germination and growth of two local rice varieties (Ismail and Metali, 2014). It also uses significant amounts of water, more than the natural vegetation that it replaces. By fixing nitrogen it also impacts on soil nutrient cycling.



Acacia mangium Willd

