



# *Broussonetia papyrifera*



## 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 dương

## 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

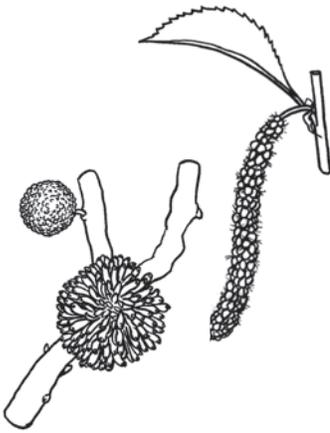
Fuelwood, fodder, paper, pulp, shade and ornament.

## 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 tanarius* (L.) Müll. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae), *Melanolepis multiglandulosus* (Reinw. ex Blume) Rchb.f. & Zoll. (Euphorbiaceae), *Mallotus philippinensis* (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.



*Broussonetia papyrifera* (L.) Vent

