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# *Sarcotheca diversifolia*

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## Scientific Name

*Sarcotheca diversifolia* (Miq.) Hallier f.

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## Synonyms

*Connaropsis acuminata* Pearson, *Connaropsis diversifolia* (Miq.) Kurz, *Connaropsis grandiflora* Ridl., *Rourea diversifolia* Miq., *Santalodes diversifolium* (Miq.) O.Kuntze, *Sarcotheca acuminata* (Pearson) Hall. f., *Sarcotheca subtriplinervis* Hall. f.

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## Family

Oxalidaceae

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## Common/English Name

Jungle Belimbing

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## Vernacular Names

**Brunei:** Kerapa-Kerapa, Perapan Macas, Tebarus;

**Borneo (Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan):** Parapa (Dusun), Belimbing Bulat, Belimbing Hutan, Buah Piang, Buah Picing, Iba Jantan, Kadazan, Kandis, Kerapa-Kerapa, Jiwang, Perapan Macas, Piang, Tabaus, Tebarus, Tutong, Ubah Gandis;

**Indonesia:** Asam, Asam Kalimbawan (Kalimantan).

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## Origin/Distribution

This species is found in Sumatra, Borneo (Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah, West-, Central- and East-Kalimantan).

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## Agroecology

It is strictly a tropical species. In its native habitat, it occurs as middle-storey, sub-canopy tree in undisturbed to disturbed mixed dipterocarp and keranga forests, secondary forests, on slopes up to 500 m altitude. It grows on sandy soils, sandy clays and clayey soils.

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## Edible Plant Parts and Uses

The sour fruit can be eaten fresh with salt or made into pickles and preserves (Plate 2). The acid fruit is eaten as a vegetable or added to curries.

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## Botany

A sub-canopy tree, reaching a height of 30 m with a trunk diameter of 30 m. Leaves are alternate, exstipulate and trifoliate. Leaflets are oval, lateral leaflet 3–9.5 cm long by 1–4 cm wide, caducous,



**Plate 1** Fresh, ripe, obovoid, greenish-yellow of *Sarcotheca diversifolia*



**Plate 2** Savoury pickled fruit (top), fresh fruit and leaves of *Sarcotheca diversifolia*

middle leaflet 5.5–18 cm long by 2–7 cm wide, pale green, glabrous, acuminate apex, 1–5 pairs of secondary veins, glabrous. Petioles 4–7 mm long. Flowers heterostylous, with long- and short-style, 13 mm diameter, pink-violet-purple with 10 stamens and 2 ovules per locule, in loosely-branched axillary or pseudoterminal thyrsopanicles. Fruit subglobose to obovoid, greenish-yellow drupe, 1.8–3.1 cm by 1–2 cm wide with 5 shallow

episeptal furrows and persistent calyx and stamens at the base (Plate 1).

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### Nutritive/Medicinal Properties

No information on its nutritive food value or medicinal value has been published.

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### Other Uses

The wood has been used for indoor construction, roofing furniture, plywood and agricultural implements.

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### Comments

*Sarcotheca diversifolia* is closely related to other timber species in the genus, namely *S. glauca*, *S. griffithii*, *S. macrophylla*, *S. ochracea* and *S. rubrinervis*.

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