
Baccaurea edulis

Scientific Name

Baccaurea edulis Merr.

Synonyms

None

Family

Phyllanthaceae, also placed in Euphorbiaceae

Common/English Names

Tampoi, Tampoi Merah

Vernacular Names

Borneo: Apor-Apor (Bassap), Pental Nyumbo, Tampoi Paya (Iban), Pas, Tampoi Paya (Malay), Boenjan, Kapul, Kapul Putih, Kelawat'n Petik, Kepsoet Awoet, Kulibon, Pasin, Puak, Puak Burong, Pugi, Tampoi, Tampoi Hutan, Tampoi Merah.

Origin/Distribution

The species is native to Borneo (Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah, West- and East-Kalimantan).

Agroecology

A tropical species, thrives in a hot, wet and humid areas. It occurs wild in lowland primary and secondary rain forest, and swamp forest on alluvial and sandy soils from sea level to 700 m elevation.

Edible Plant Parts and Uses

Arillode and seed-coat are edible, sweet to acid sweet. The fruit is sold in local markets during the fruiting season.

Botany

A small to medium-sized tree, 8–33 m tall with a girth of 5–60 cm and red-brownish bark. Leaves are spirally arranged on pubescent, 1.2–7.7 cm long petioles, stipules, pubescent, deltoid to elliptic, 6–11 mm by 2.5–4.5 mm. Lamina is dark-green, elliptic, 8–29 cm by 12–73 cm, papery, base cuneate to rounded, apex acute to cuspidate, margin entire, glabrous above and subglabrous beneath with 7–10 secondary veins per side. Staminate inflorescences are axillary, solitary to a few clustered together, 15–125 mm long, branched, pubescent with many scattered flowers on 0.5–1.7 mm pedicel, along the branchlets and with one bract per branchlet. Male flowers are small, 1–2.5 mm, yellowish-green to yellowish-white, sepals 4–5, ovate to elliptic, 0.7–1.5 by



Plate 1 Ripe tampoi fruit

0.5–1 mm, apex recurved, pubescent; stamens 3–5, glabrous with pale yellow anthers. Pistillate inflorescences are ramiflorous to cauline, 2–6 clustered together, 2–18 cm long, 1–1.5 mm thick, densely hairy, 10–25-flowered. Female flower is 3–7 mm across, greenish-yellow; sepals 4 or 5, ovate, 2–3.5 by 1–2 mm, pubescent; ovary globose, 2–4 by 1.5–4 mm, 2-locular, densely hairy; style, densely hairy; stigmas 1–2 mm long, cleft. Fruits are globose, 2–4-seeded berries, 5–6 cm diameter, glabrous, densely hairy when young, orangey-brown to whitish to yellow (Plate 1), cauliflorous; pericarp 4–10 mm thick; column 19–25 mm long, straight; pedicel

5–14 mm long. Seeds are globose to ellipsoid, laterally flattened, 13–20.5 by 8–21 mm; arillode is white to yellow.

Nutritive/Medicinal Properties

No published information is available on its nutritive and medicinal values.

Other Uses

A minor and lesser-known timber tree.

Comments

The tree is established from seeds.

Selected References

- Airy Shaw HK (1975) The Euphorbiaceae of Borneo. Kew Bull Add Ser 4:1–245
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- Slik JWF (2006) Trees of Sungai Wain. Nationaal Herbarium Nederland. <http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/sungaiwain/>