PLANT FACT SHEET

Pongamia pinnata (Linnaeus) Panigrahi

GENUS *Pongamia* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Poona Oil Tree, Beach walnut, Pongamia

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Fruit, Leaves

The seeds are edible cooked.
The leaves are used to make a sauce.
CAUTION: It is probably poisonous with a toxin which causes vomiting. The seeds have a bitter oil.

DESCRIPTION

A tree up to 15-25 m high and 45 cm across the trunk. It loses its leaves during the year. The bark is soft and greyish green. It is smooth or covered with rounded swellings. The leaves are alternate and compound with 3 or more leaflets. There is a leaflet at the end. They are smooth and pointed at the tip. They are 7 to 10 cm long and 2.5-5 cm wide. The leaves have a bitter smell when squashed. The flowers are purplish and about 1.5 cm long in racemes. The pods are oblong and 5-7 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They are flattened and have thick walls. The seeds are 2 cm across. The pod tapers on both sides to sharp points. The seeds are kidney shaped.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It can grow on a wide range of well-drained soils. They are found along the coastal regions from northern Luzon to southern Mindanao in the Philippines. In Samoa it grows from sea level to 100 m altitude. In India it grows along the banks of streams. In the Cairns Botanical Gardens. It is salt tolerant. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

Harvesting and Seed Production

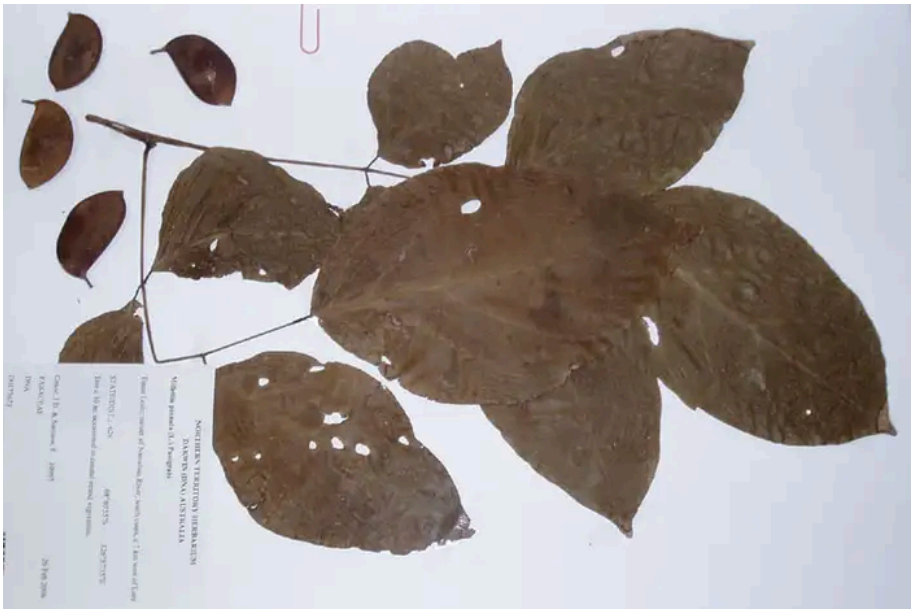
Plants are fast growing.

NOTES

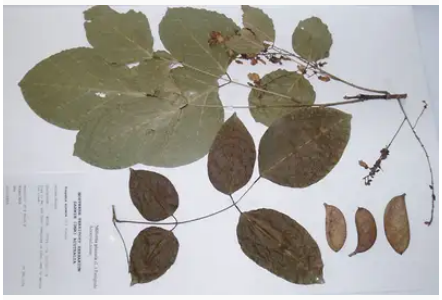
There is only one Pongamia species. It grows in the tropics. It is used in medicine.

Pongamia pinnata (L.) Pierre is an accepted name while Pongamia pinnata (L.) Merrill is unresolved.

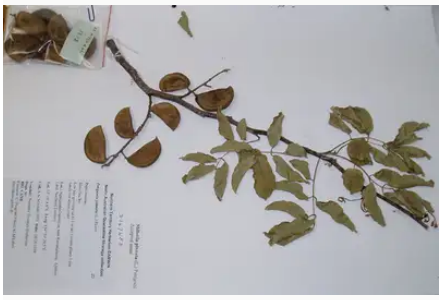
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Ambasta, S.P. (Ed.), 2000, The Useful Plants of India. CSIR India. p 483 (As Millettia pinnata)

Argent, G et al, nd, Manual of the Larger and More important non Dipterocarp Trees of Central Kalimantan Indonesia. Volume 2 Forest Research Institute, Samarinda, Indonesia. p 366 (As Millettia pinnata)

Bhargava, N., 1983, Ethnobotanical Studies of the Tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. 1. Onge. Economic Botany 37(1): 110-119 (As Pongamia pinnata)

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 822 (As Millettia pinnata)

Borrell, O.W., 1989, An Annotated Checklist of the Flora of Kairiru Island, New Guinea. Marcellin College, Victoria Australia. p 92 (As Millettia pinnata)

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 820 (As Millettia pinnata)

Brock, J., 1993, Native Plants of Northern Australia, Reed. p 286 (As Millettia pinnata)

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 2 (I-Z) p 1828 (As Millettia pinnata)

Chakraborty, S. & Chaturbedi, H. P., 2014, Some Wild Edible Fruits of Tripura- A Survey. Indian Journal of Applied research. (4) 9 (As Millettia pinnata)

Cooper, W. and Cooper, W., 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Nokomis Editions, Victoria, Australia. p 213 (As Millettia pinnata)

Cowie, I, 2006, A Survey of Flora and vegetation of the proposed Jaco-Tutuala-Lore National Park. Timor-Lests (East Timor) www.territorystories.nt/gov.au p 48 (As Millettia pinnata)

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1997, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 7. Lothian. p 44 (As Millettia pinnata)

Flora of Pakistan. www.eFloras.org (As Pongamia pinnata)

Franklin, J., Keppel, G., & Whistler, W., 2008, The vegetation and flora of Lakeba, Nayau and Aiwa Islands, Central Lau Group, Fiji. Micronesica 40(1/2): 169–225, 2008 (As Millettia pinnata)

Hearne, D.A., & Rance, S.J., 1975, Trees for Darwin and Northern Australia. AGPS, Canberra p 99, Pl 30 (As Millettia pinnata)

Jackes, B.R., 2001, Plants of the Tropics. Rainforest to Heath. An Identification Guide. James Cook University. p 55 (As Millettia pinnata)

Jackes, B. R., 2010, Plants of Magnetic Island. 3rd Edition. James Cook University, Australia. p 87

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 159 (As Millettia pinnata)

Lazarides, M. & Hince, B., 1993, Handbook of Economic Plants of Australia, CSIRO. p 196 (As Millettia pinnata)

Lebot, V. & Sam, C., Green desert or 'all you can eat'? How diverse and edible was the flora of Vanuatu before human introductions?. Terra australis 52 p 409

Llamas, K.A., 2003, Tropical Flowering Plants. Timber Press. p 221 (As Millettia pinnata)

Lord, E.E., & Willis, J.H., 1999, Shrubs and Trees for Australian gardens. Lothian. p 20 (As Millettia pinnata)

Monsalud, M.R., Tongacan, A.L., Lopez, F.R., & Lagrimas, M.Q., 1966, Edible Wild Plants in Philippine Forests. Philippine Journal of Science. p 486 (As Pongamia pinnata)

Pandy, R. K. & Saini, S. K., 2007, Edible plants of tropical forests among tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. 6(1), pp 185-190 (As Pongamia pinnata)

Panigrahi & Murti, Fl. Bilaspur Distr. 1:210. 1989 (As Millettia pinnata)

Singh, H.B., Arora R.K.,1978, Wild edible Plants of India. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. p 79 (As Millettia pinnata)

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 333 (As Millettia pinnata)

Townsend, K., 1994, Across the Top. Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 321 (As Millettia pinnata)

Townsend, K., 1999, Field Guide to Plants of the Dry Tropics. Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc. p 80 (As Millettia pinnata)

Verdcourt, B., 1979, Manual of New Guinea Legumes. Botany Bulletin No 11, Division of Botany, Lae, Papua New Guinea. p 312 (As Millettia pinnata)

Waheed, M., et al, 2023, Traditional Wild Food Plants Gathered by Ethnic Groups Living in Semi-Arid Region of Punjab, Pakistan. Biology 2023, 12, 269.

Whistler, W.A., 2004, Rainforest Trees of Samoa. Isle Botanica Honolulu, Hawaii. p 74

Wightman, G. M. & Andrews, M.R., 1989, Plants of Northern Territory Monsoon Vine Forests (Vol 1). Conservation Commission of Northern Territory. p 74

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (As Millettia pinnata)

www.efloras.org Flora of China (As Pongamia pinnata (L.) Merrill)

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c4f9b3b4-12a3-48fa-9066-1079a70b0db0