PLANT FACT SHEET

Dialium indum L.

GENUS *Dialium* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Honey tamarind plum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is eaten fresh. It can be made into a toffee-like paste.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 20-25 m high. It can be 40 m tall with a trunk 80 cm across. The leaves are compound. The leaf is 10-20 cm long and hairy. The 5-9 leaflets occur alternately. They are oval and 7-10 cm long by 2.5-3 cm wide. The flower panicles can be at the ends of branches or in the axils of leaves. They are hairy and 10 cm long. The flowers do not have petals. The buds are 4-5 mm long. The fruit is a fleshy pod with black velvety rind. It is 2-3 cm long by 1.5-2 cm wide. There is one seed inside. The seed is oval and has marks along it. It is 1-1.5 cm long. The pod has edible sweet pulp.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It suits a hot, wet tropical lowland climate. It grows in evergreen forest in southern Thailand. It occurs in moist places in valleys. It grows in swamp forest. In Borneo it grows up to 1,200 m above sea level.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 40 Dialium species. They grow in tropical SE Asia. They probably all have edible fruit. Also as Caesalpinaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

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 355

Barwick, M., 2004, Tropical and Subtropical Trees. A Worldwide Encyclopedic Guide. Thames and Hudson p 143

Burkill, I.H., 1966, A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Vol 1 (A-H) p 812 (Also as Dialium laurinum)

Chai, P. P. K. (Ed), et al, 2000, A checklist of Flora, Fauna, Food and Medicinal Plants. Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarawak. Forestry Malaysia & ITTO. p 168 (Also as Dialium laurinum)

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 68 (As Dialium indum)

GRIN

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 270 (As Dialium indum)

J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 2:269. 1878 (As Dialium laurinum)

http://sarawakfacts.sarawak.gov.my (As Dialium laurinum)

Jacquat, C., 1990, Plants from the Markets of Thailand. D.K. Book House p 46

Kebler, P. J. A., & Kidiyasa, 1994, Trees of the Balikpapan-Samarinda area of East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The Tropenbos Foundation, Wageningen, The Netherlands. p 71

Kiple, K.F. & Ornelas, K.C., (eds), 2000, The Cambridge World History of Food. CUP p 1875

Macmillan, H.F. (Revised Barlow, H.S., et al) 1991, Tropical Planting and Gardening. Sixth edition. Malayan Nature Society. Kuala Lumpur. p 298

Martin, F. W., et al, 1987, Perennial Edible Fruits of the Tropics. USDA Handbook 642 p 34

Milow, P., et al, 2013, Malaysian species of plants with edible fruits or seeds and their evaluation. International Journal of Fruit Science. 14:1, 1-27

Priyadi, H., et al, Five hundred plant species in Gunung Halimun Salak National Park, West Java. A checklist including Sundanese names, distribution and use. CIFOR, FFPRI, SLU p 9

PROSEA 2 p 375

Putra, H. F. & Mustaqim, W. A., 2021, Diversity, conservation, potential uses, and alien species of lowland
plants of Batang Toru, Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 22 No. 3 pp 1580-1591

Shaffiq, A. M., A., et al, 2013, Marketable wild fruits of Sarawak, Borneo: Their mode of consumption, uses and sugar profiles. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. Vol 12(2): 195-201

Siong, K. H., 2003, Indigenous Fruits of Sarawak. ITTO & Sarawak Forest Department. p 72

Slik, F., www.asianplant.net

Soerianegara, I. & Lemmens, R. H. M. L., (Eds.) 1993, Timber trees: Major commercial timbers. Plant Resources of South-East Asia. Wageningen. No. 5(1). p 164

Sukarya, D. G., (Ed.) 2013, 3,500 Plant Species of the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia. LIPI p 227

Suwardi, A.B., et al, 2023, The diversity and regional conservation status of wild edible fruit species in Sumatra, Indonesia. Biodiversitas Vol. 24 No. 6. pp 3245-3257

Tankard, G., 1990, Tropical fruit. An Australian Guide to Growing and using exotic fruit. Viking p 126

Uji, T., 2007, Species diversity of indigenous fruits in Indonesia and its potential. Biodiversitas, 8 (2): 157-167

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN). [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. Available: www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/econ.pl (10 April 2000)

Wiersema, J. H. & Leon, B., 2013, World Economic Plants. A Standard Reference CRC Press. 2nd Ed. p 242

World Checklist of Useful Plant Species 2020. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Zawiah, N. & Othaman, H., 2012, 99 Spesies Buah di FRIM. Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia. p 92

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/d44ca13c-8f9d-4d93-84fc-0d87b22e93c1