

Diospyros ehretioides Wall. ex G. Don

Taptao Ton

(EBENACEAE)

Deciduous, climax tree growing up to 15 m tall. Fairly common, semi-open areas.

Where does it grow?

Found in Cambodia, India, Myanmar, and Thailand.

What are its distinguishing characteristics?

Leaf: 10-28x7-23 cm, oval, elliptic or ovate with blunt or rounded tip & rounded or heart-shaped base. Young leaves are finely hairy, mature leaves leathery, smooth or nearly so. 6-12 pairs of forked side veins, sunken above, tertiary veins faint. Stalks 1-2 cm. **Flowers:** male flower: stalks ± 3 mm, finely hairy. Calyx 2-3 mm, corolla 3-5 mm, both divided 1/3, sparsely hairy outside, smooth inside. 20-30 smooth stamens. Female: stalks ± 1 cm, calyx divided \pm to base, style & ovary woolly. **Fruit:** 1.5-2.5 cm, yellow to red-brown, ovoid with blunt tip, dry, hairy when young, later smooth. Calyx divided $> \frac{1}{2}$ into oblong lobes, bent backwards but not wavy, faintly veined, hairy outside, smooth inside. Stalks to 1.2 cm.

Why is it a framework species?

Its edible fleshy fruits can attract many seed-dispersing birds and animals.

How are saplings grown?

Collect fruits in January and November. Remove seeds from fruits and sow them in germination trays in full sunlight. GP is 50% and MLD is 44 days.

How should saplings be planted and cared for?

Plant the sapling in a hole twice the size of the container. Saplings should be planted at least 2-2.5 m apart from each other. Apply 50 g of fertilizers at the time of planting. Continue weeding and applying fertilizers at 6-8 weeks intervals throughout the 1st and 2nd rainy seasons. It can be grown in all types of soil.

What can the species be used for?

Wood is valued for timber. Fruits are edible and used medicinally.

