

Turpinia pomifera (Roxb.) DC

Makok Phran

Synonym: *Dalrympelea pomifera* Roxb.

(STAPHYLEACEAE)

It is a small evergreen, climax tree, growing up to 13 m tall, with an irregular crown and a short trunk.

Where does it grow?

It is native to a wide range across South and Southeast Asia, including Assam, Bangladesh, China (South-Central and Southeast), the East Himalaya, Java, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, the Philippines, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Thailand, and Vietnam.

What are its distinguishing characteristics?

Bark: creamy-brown and smooth, becoming dark brown and cracked near the base as it ages. **Leaf:** odd-pinnate, rarely trifoliate, opposite in 2 rows (decussate), 2-3(4) pairs of opposite leaflets, oblong, abruptly tipped, irregularly & often sharply toothed, completely smooth, dark green & glossy above. 5-10 pairs of steeply curved side veins. Side leaflet stalks, end one much longer. Stipules triangular, falling early but leaving a distinct scar. **Flower:** greenish-white, branched clusters in upper leaf axils & at ends of twigs, shorter than leaves. 5 sepals, outer ones broader, 5 overlapping petals, hairy along margins, 5 stamens with flattened filaments & short anthers surrounding a lobed disc. 3 styles, pressed together but not fused except at the tips. **Fruit:** pale yellowish-green, juicy, globose or irregularly lumpy, often with 3 short points (styles) at the top which are sometimes joined together in a fine ridge. 1-5 seeds (pyrenes), angular.

Why is it a framework species?

The tree produces flowers and fruits that attract birds and insects, aiding pollination and seed dispersal.

How are saplings grown?

Collect ripe fruits in December. Remove the seeds from the fruits and apply scarification before sowing. Then sow them in germination trays. GP is 56% and MLD is 42 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 1.8 m apart from each other. Apply 50g of fertilizers at the time of planting. Continue weeding and applying fertilizers at 6-8 weeks intervals throughout the 1st and 2nd rainy seasons.

What can the species be used for?

It is used in traditional medicine to treat ailments like skin diseases, and its wood is valued for construction and furniture-making.

