

Vitex peduncularis Wall. ex Schauer

Tin Nok

(LAMIACEAE)

It is a deciduous or semi-evergreen, pioneer tree growing up to 25 meters tall, but usually smaller.

Where does it grow?

It is native to Bangladesh, Cambodia, south-central China, the East Himalaya, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

What are its distinguishing characteristics?

Bark: pale grey, smooth or shallowly cracked & flaking, inner bark pale creamy orange. **Leaf:** trifoliate, leaflets 8-17 cm, lanceolate, tapering or pointed at both ends. Young shoots are sparsely hairy (mealy), mature leaves are thin, smooth, or sparsely hairy with tiny yellow dots (resin glands) below. Side leaflet stalks 0.5-1.5 cm, main stalks 5-9 cm, often winged in young trees but usually not winged in mature trees. **Flower:** 0.7-1 cm, white with yellow or purple markings, in narrow, branched clusters (thyrses) at leaf axils or just behind leaves, 10-25 cm. Individual stalks 2-6 mm, slender, with minute bracts. Calyx & corolla finely hairy with shiny yellow dots outside, calyx +2 mm, corolla tube +4 mm, lower lip longer than tube. **Fruit:** 0.5-0.8 cm, yellow-green ripening dark red-purple to black, smooth, fleshy with a single hard stone containing 4 seeds.

Why is it a framework species?

It is a pioneer species capable of growing fast on poor and rocky soils, making it well-suited for restoring degraded areas. It also

attracts pollinators like bees and birds, as well as small mammals like bats and squirrels.

How are saplings grown?

Collect ripe fruits in July. Remove flesh and sow seeds in the germination tray. Apply scarification before sowing. GP 27%, MLD 34 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. Make sure planted saplings do not become shaded by neighboring trees.

What can the species be used for?

It is commonly used in traditional medicine for treating fevers, skin diseases, and digestive disorders, and its wood is used locally for construction, fuel, and making agricultural tools.

