

***Xylia xylocarpa* (Roxb.) W.Theob.**
(FABACEAE)

Daeng

It is a deciduous, climax tree growing up to 30 meters tall, with a straight trunk and slender drooping branches.

Where does it grow?

It is native to Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

What are its distinguishing characteristics?

Bark: creamy brown or red-brown, thin, peeling in rounded flakes, inner bark pink

Leaf: bipinnate with a single pair of side stalks, 10-30 cm, each with 3-7 pairs of opposite leaflets, top ones largest, 4- 15x2.5- 6 cm, narrowly ovate or elliptic with slightly pointed tips. Young shoots densely covered with yellowish hairs, mature leaves smooth above, usually with minute pale brown hairs below.

Leaflet stalks 0.2-0.3 cm, main stalk 3-8 cm, all joints with rounded glands. Young leaves are delicate pink, appearing in March-April just after the flowers. **Flower:** pale yellow, in dense spherical heads, 1.5-2 cm, solitary or in very short, unbranched clusters in axils of fallen leaves. Head stalks 3.5-5 cm, individual flowers without stalks. 5 petals, 3.5-4.5 mm, slightly fused at base, hairy outside. 10-12 free stamens, 5-12 mm, much longer than petals, 5 stamens longer than others, anthers without glands.

Fruit: 10-15x5-6 cm, thick & woody, slightly curved, tapering at base, pale creamy brown at first, later dark brown, splitting suddenly into 2 parts which curl backwards, remaining on the tree for a long time. 6-10 flat, dark brown seeds 2x1.2 cm.

Why is it a framework species?

This species helps prevent soil erosion in degraded areas. It also provides shelter for a variety of wildlife.

How are saplings grown?

Collect ripe fruits from December until June. Remove the seeds from the fruits and sow them in germination trays. No special pre-sowing treatment is required. GP 76%, MLD 17 days.

How should saplings be planted and cared for?

Apply a cardboard mulch mat at planting time. Weed and apply fertilizer as necessary.

What can the species be used for?

It is commonly used in construction, particularly for making railway sleepers and furniture.

