Macaranga tanarius

LOCAL NAMES
English (hairy mahang); Filipino (kuyonon,himindang,binunga); Indonesian (tutup ancur,hanuwa,mara,mapu); Javanese (tutup ancur); Malay (ka-lo,kundoh,mahang puteh,tampu); Thai (ka-lo,hu chang lek,mek,paang,lo khao); Vietnamese (hach dau nam)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION
Macaranga tanarius is a small- to medium-sized dioecious tree up to 20 m tall, usually much shorter; branches rather thick, glaucous, pubescent when young.

Leaves alternate, blade peltate, suborbicular, 8-32 x 5-28 cm, rounded at the base, acuminate at the apex, entire, sometimes denticulate or slightly lobed, with distinct veins, hairy when young; petiole 6-27 cm long, with large caducous stipules at the base.

Flowers in axillary, paniculate inflorescences, composed of bracts enclosing clusters of flowers; male flowers minute, many in a cluster with (min. 3) 5-6 (max. 10) stamens, female flowers few in a cluster, with a subovoid, glandular, 2-celled ovary and 2 large stigmas.

Fruit a bicoccus capsule, about 1 cm in diameter, with long,soft prickles, yellowish, glandular outside. Seeds globose, about 5 mm in diameter, rugose.

The generic name is after a native name from Madagascar.

BIOLOGY
M. tanarius is a dioecious, wind pollinated tree, flowering and fruiting fairly regularly.
Macaranga tanarius
Euphorbiaceae

ECOLOGY
A very fast-growing pioneer species. M. tanarius is often common in secondary forests, especially in logging areas. It is also found in thickets, brushwood, village groves and beach vegetation.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS
Altitude: Up to 1500 m, Mean annual rainfall: 1000-2800 mm, Mean annual temperature: 10-30 deg.C

Soil type: Occurs on clayey, loamy and sandy soils, usually in lowlands.

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION
Native: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Taiwan, Province of China, Thailand, Vietnam
Exotic:

The map above shows countries where the species has been planted. It does neither suggest that the species can be planted in every ecological zone within that country, nor that the species can not be planted in other countries than those depicted. Since some tree species are invasive, you need to follow biosafety procedures that apply to your planting site.
Macaranga tanarius

Muell. Arg.
Euphorbiaceae

PRODUCTS
Food: In Sumatra, fruit are added to palm juice when it is boiled down into crystals, improving the quality of the sugar produced.

Fuel: Good firewood is provided by Macaranga tanarius.

Fibre: Macaranga yields a high-quality pulp and produces high-quality particleboard.

Timber: The timber is soft and light, about 500 kg/cubic m air-dry. It is not durable or resistant to termite attack but is fairly tough. The grain is straight or only shallowly interlocked, with a moderately fine and even texture. Pepper growers in southern Sumatra use it to make temporary ladders to harvest their crop.

Gum or resin: In Indonesia and the Philippines, the gum tapped from the bark is used as a glue, particularly for joining parts of musical instruments.

Tannin or dyestuff: The bark contains tannin, which is used for toughening fishing nets. Nets dipped in a decoction of the bark will stand the influence of seawater for a considerable amount of time. In Indonesia, the leaves have been reported to dye matting black, like other Euphorbiaceae.

Alcohol: Bark and leaves are widely used in the Philippines in the preparation of a fermented drink called ‘basi’ made from sugarcane.

SERVICES
Shade or shelter: M. tanarius has been recommended as a shade and shelter tree to promote natural regeneration on deforested land.
Macaranga tanarius
Muell. Arg.
Euphorbiaceae

GERmplasm MANAGEMENT
Seed storage behaviour is orthodox. There are approximately 54 500 dry seeds/kg.
Macaranga tanarius  
Muell. Arg.  
Euphorbiaceae

FURTHER READING


SUGGESTED CITATION