Vitex altissima

L.f.

Verbenaceae

LOCAL NAMES
Hindi (selonphang,mayilai,balgay,balage,ashoi); Nepali (tin-patte)

BOTANIC DESCRIPTION
Vitex altissima is a medium-sized tree up to 25(-33) m tall; leaves 3-foliolate, petiole winged towards the apex.

Leaflets slightly pubescent below.

Inflorescence axillary and terminal, paniculate; calyx lobes subequal, c. 1 mm long, corolla whitish-purple to violet.

Fruit subglobose, 5-8 mm in diameter, bluish-black when mature.

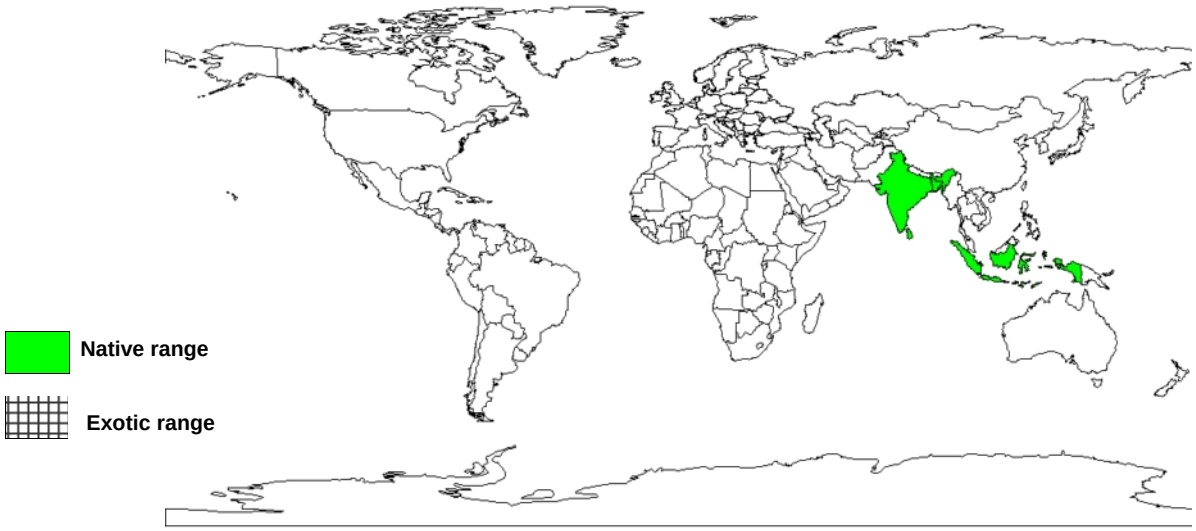
BIOLOGY

ECOLOGY
V. altissima is common in forests in India and Sri Lanka, but probably rather rare in Malesia.

BIOPHYSICAL LIMITS

DOCUMENTED SPECIES DISTRIBUTION

Native: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka
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.

PRODUCTS
Timber: The density of the wood is 800-1010 kg/m cubic at 15% moisture content; the wood is hard and durable. The timber is used for construction, cabinet-work, furniture, turnery, agricultural implements and cart wheels; it is highly prized in India and Sri Lanka.

Tannin or dyestuff: A yellow dye can be extracted from the wood.

Medicine: The juice from the bark is used externally against rheumatic swellings and chest pains.

SERVICES
Ornamental: The tree seems to have good prospects as an ornamental.

TREE MANAGEMENT
V. atissima showed a mean annual diameter increment of 0.6 cm in Burma (Myanmar).

GERMPLASM MANAGEMENT

PESTS AND DISEASES

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