

Mamalis

Pittosporum pentandrum (Blanco) Merr.

COMMON NAME: Mamalis

LOCAL NAMES:

hagbujo, hagbuyo (Bohol); pangantoon (Cebu); tikala (Negros Oriental, Siquijor); balinkawayan, bolonkoyan (Panay)

DISTRIBUTION:

Endemic species very common in secondary and savannah forests at low to high altitudes of up to 1,400 masl from Northern Luzon, Palawan to Mindanao; very common and widely distributed in Central Visayas.

PROPAGATION:

By seeds.

DESCRIPTION:

Habit: Medium drought-resistant tree growing up to 30 m high and 40 cm dbh; can withstand competition with grasses and weeds.

Leaves: Lanceolate; 6-15 cm long and less than 2-3 cm wide; gradually narrowed at both ends.

Flowers: White, fragrant, about 6 mm long; crowded in panicles 5-8 cm long.

Fruit: Profuse, somewhat rounded when fresh, fleshy but with thin pericarp, 6-8 mm in diameter; green when young and yellow orange when ripe; with about 6-18 brown to black flattened and resinous seeds with turpentine odor.

Bark: Outer bark smooth and whitish brown.

USES:

Wood: In Cebu, wood largely used by exporters for the manufacture of novelty items and fashion accessories; ideal for pulp and papermaking.

Fruit: Source of mamalis oil that can be used as biofuel.

Medicinal: Aromatic decoction brewed from leaves used by women in their baths following childbirth; powdered bark employed as treatment for fever in small doses and considered a general antidote in larger doses; effective in treating bronchitis.

Forage: Leaves used as animal feeds by upland farmers in many parts of Central Visayas.



