

Narra

Pterocarpus indicus Willd.

COMMON NAME: Smooth Narra

LOCAL NAMES:

naga (Cebu, Bohol); narra (Negros Oriental, Siquijor); laga (Negros Oriental)

DISTRIBUTION:

Found in primary and secondary forests at low and medium altitudes throughout the Philippines; commonly associated with molave.

PROPAGATION:

By seeds and vegetative methods (i.e. cuttings, tissue culture and grafting).

DESCRIPTION:

Habit: Large tree growing up to 35 m high and 200 cm dbh; trunk usually fluted and buttressed up to 7 m high from the base; crown large, with many long spreading branches that are at first ascending, but eventually arch over

and sometimes droop at the ends.

Leaves: Odd-pinnate; 9-11 alternate leaflets; ovate to elliptic; 7-11 cm long and 3.5-5.5 cm wide; base obtuse to rounded, apex acuminate; upper surface shiny.

Flowers: Small, yellow, numerous, fragrant and borne in large axillary panicles.

Fruit: About 5 cm across, with central woody-corky bulge containing several seeds surrounded with wings; species distinguished from the prickly narra (*Pterocarpus vidalinaus* forma *ichinatus*) because of its smooth fruit.

Bark: Outer bark smooth, grayish; peels off and exudes red sap.

USES:

Wood: Used for fine furniture, cabinets, door panels, musical instrument, flooring, wall, veneer, plywood and balusters; wood gives a reddish dye.

Flowers: Source of high-quality honey.

Medicinal: Bark and resin extracts

used for diarrhea; root extract applied on syphilitic sores; wood increases urination, cures diarrhea, and has antimalarial properties; fruit kernel can induce vomiting; red latex used in folk remedies for tumors and the plant for cancers, especially of the mouth; young leaves applied on ripening boils, skin ulcers and prickly heat; leaves soaked in water relieve stomach trouble, sprue (a tropical disease affecting mouth, throat and digestion), palpitation of the heart, rheumatism, abnormal mucous discharge from the vagina and fever; also used as lotion, shampoo, disinfectant and insecticide; leaves reported to significantly inhibit the growth of carcinoma cells in mice; kino obtained from this tree contains kinotannic acid and can be administered for diarrhea, often combined with opium; also used as a folk remedy for bladder ailments, dropsy, headache, sores, stones, thrush, and tumors of the abdomen.



FLOWERS



CROWN



FRUITS



LEAVES



TRUNK

