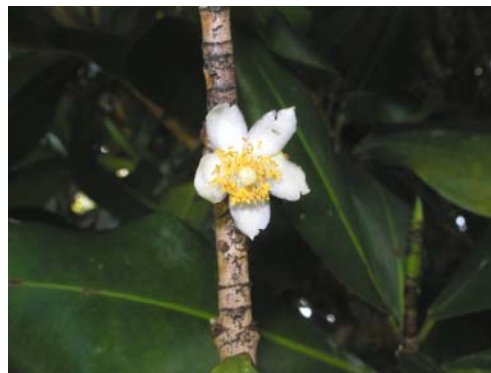




CHOPAK

Botanical Name: *Mammea odorata*
Common Name: Chopak
Native Range: Pacific Islands

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Photos: Forestry & Soil Resources Division (F&SRD)
Created: Julne 27, 2007

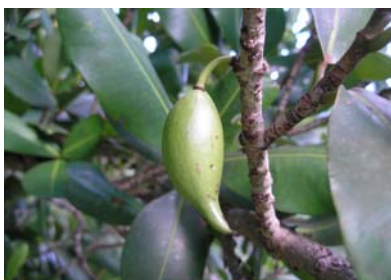


Description

Chopak is a medium sized tree (up to 30ft.) native to Mariana Islands and many other Pacific Islands. In the Marianas, chopak is commonly found in limestone forests along coastal cliffs and slopes. Its general appearance is similar to that of Da'ok (*Calophyllum inophyllum*). Major differences are apparent between trunk characteristics and positioning of flowers and fruits. Chopak flowers grow singly along branches below the leaves or even on the trunk while Da'ok flowers grow in clusters on the tips of branches. (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991)

Propagation

Chopak fruits contain one seed. The seeds germinate anywhere from one to five months and growth rate is very slow. Seeds root about 4-6 weeks after sowing, and stem and leaf emergence follows several weeks after rooting. Seed coats can be scarified or removed to allow water to enter toward seeds.



Uses

Chopak's hard wood is durable and is used for construction of homes, fences, and tool handles. Its heartwood can be used as a red dye (Raulerson & Rinehart, 1991). Forestry has started to grow chopak in the nursery, which may be used for reforestation of natives and urban plant projects in the future.

References:

Raulerson, L. and A. Rinehart. 1991. *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*. Coastal Resources Management, Office of the Governor, CNMI. 120p.

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