

Platymiscium pinnatum (Jacq.) Dugand

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FABACEAE (BEAN FAMILY)

No synonyms

Cachimbo, coyote, cristobal, granadillo, hormigo, ñambar, quira, quirei, sangrillo, swamp kaway

Platymiscium pinnatum grows from Central America to northern South America (Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador).

Platymiscium pinnatum is a slow-growing tree up to 35 m in height and 1 m d.b.h. It has a rounded crown and rough, green-gray bark. Leaves are opposite and odd-pinnate with stipules and with three to five short-petiolate leaflets. The broadly ovate-acute or acuminate glabrous leaflets are 5 to 20 cm long and 3 to 5 cm wide. The trees are usually deciduous during the dry season, December through April. The species grows primarily on the hills and the mountain slopes with good drainage in the dry, moist, and wet climates of the lowlands. The tree grows in different types of soils and is adapted to a wide range of rainfall (1500 to 3000 mm per year), an annual average temperature of 23 to 26 °C, and elevations from sea level to 600 m.

The hard, strong wood of *P. pinnatum* is considered moderate to heavy with a specific gravity of 0.50 to 0.86. The transition from sapwood to heartwood is gradual; when dry the sapwood is dark yellow and the heartwood is red-brown. The grains are oblique and slightly intercrossed, the texture is fine, and the luster is moderate. It is easy to dry and preserve,

has good workability, and shows no defects during the drying process. The wood is naturally durable and resists decay. It is used for high-quality flooring, paneling, furniture, crafts, and veneer and in cabinetwork and heavy construction. Because the wood is durable even in contact with the ground, it has been used for railroad ties in Colombia (Allen 1956).

The small, pale-orange flowers are produced from December through April, and sometimes in May. The flowers appear in clusters of slender racemes from the subterminal or axillary defoliate nodes, rendering the trees very conspicuous and attractive from a distance (Allen 1956). The fruits are indehiscent pods about 7 cm long that mature within 30 days (Allen 1956). The pods are flat, rather leathery, and elliptic or nearly oblong. They each contain one seed.

Production of this fine timber tree is primarily from natural forests, and information on nursery practices and seedling care is nonexistent. Nevertheless, the seedlings of *P. pinnatum* that are growing naturally in the forest can be outplanted (personal observation).

Fusarium roseum, a fungus, has been reported as a parasite of the foliage of this species (Arguedas and others 1993).

