

**CAESALPINIA SEPIARIA Roxb.**

**PUTO**

*Caesalpinia benguetensis* Elm.

*Mezoneurum bengetense* Elm.

Local names: *Puto* (Ig.).

Puto is found in Isabela and Benguet Provinces in Luzon, in thickets about limestone cliffs and boulders, at an altitude of about 1,200 meters. The plant also occurs in India and Japan, and southward to Malaya. It was introduced into tropical Africa, America, and Australia.

Puto is straggling, woody, thorny, stout climber. The branches are finely downy, with small yellow prickles. The leaves are two-pinnate, 25 to 40 centimeters long. The leaflets are 10 to 24, opposite, oblong, and 1 to 2.5 centimeters long. The flowers are large, bright chrome yellow, and on terminal, large, erect racemes. The pod is smooth, nearly flat, obliquely, oblong, 5 to 8 centimeters long and about 2.5 centimeters wide, and tipped with persistent style base. There are 4 to 8 oblong, mottled seeds.

Burkill reports that in southern India the bark is used for tanning.

Crevost and Petelot consider the roots as purgative.

Kirtikar and Basu state that in Chamba the bruised leaves are applied to burns.

According to Stuart the seeds are said to have astringent, anthelmintic, antipyretic, and antimalarial properties. They are said to be used for the most part in the treatment of ague.