

DOLICHANDRONE SPATHACEA (Linn.F.) K. Schum.

TIWI

Bignonia longissima Lour.
Bignonia spathacea Linn. f.
Dolichandrone longissima K. Schum.
Dolichandrone rheedii Seem.
Spathodea luzonica Blanco
Spathodea rheedii Wall.

Local names: *Pata* (Ilk.); *tangas* (Tagb.); *tanhas* (C. Bis.); *tanghas* (P. Bis.); *tewi* (Mbo.); *tiwi* (Tag., Bik., Bis.); *tua* (Tag.); *tui* (Tag.).

Tiwi is found along the seashore and tidal streams from La Union Province (Luzon) to Palawan, Mindanao, and the Sulu Archipelago. It also occurs in India, through Malaya to New Guinea.

This smooth tree grows from 5 to 15 meters in height. The leaves are opposite, 30 to 40 centimeters long, and pinnately compound with seven to nine leaflets. The leaflets are ovate to ovate-lanceolate or ovate-elliptic, 7 to 15 centimeters long, unequal at the base, and pointed at the tip. The flowers are borne on short, terminal, few-flowered racemes. The calyx is 4 to 5 centimeters long, spathe-like, and split down one side to the base. The corolla is white, with a rather slender, cylindrical or slightly compressed, 30 to 40 centimeters long, and 2 to 2.5 centimeters thick, with very numerous, rectangular, winged seeds.

In the Philippines a poultice of the fresh leaves and bark is applied against flatulence to women after childbirth. Guerrero reports that the seeds are administered in the form of a powder, generally for nervous complaints.

Heyne says that the leaves are used in Java for making a mouth-wash for thrush.

Waddell quotes Dymock, who notes that this small tree has the reputation of being able to procure abortion. The bark, it is also stated, is used as a fish poison. Dymock, however found no ill effects following the administration of a considerable quantity of a decoction of the bark to a small dog.