

19. *Cananga latifolia* (Hook.f. & Thomson) Finet & Gagnep

Taxonomy and Commercial Grade

Cambodian name	: Chker sreng
Scientific name	: <i>Cananga latifolia</i> (Hook.f. & Thomson) Finet & Gagnep
Family	: Annonaceae
Commercial Grade-Cambodia	: Unclassified

Distribution and Habitat: Trees are found in clear and semi-dense forests of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysian Peninsula (Dy Phon, 2000). In Cambodia, it is found in Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Ratanakiri, Kampong Thom, Stung Treng, Pursat and Mondulakiri (Khorn, 2002), as illustrated on the map below.

Gene Ecological Zones: Northern Cardamoms (B), Northwestern Lowlands (D), Central Lowlands (d), Central Annamites (G), Southern Annamites (g).

Botanical description: *Cananga latifolia* (Hook.f. & Thomson) Finet & Gagnep, is a small tree from 8-15 m high. The leaves are alternate and simple, hairy, from 20-30 cm long and 15-20 cm wide. They smell strongly when crushed (Heang Ponley, 2002, per. comm.).



Seed Collection: Seeds are usually collected from the tree or from the ground after shaking the branches. In seed source areas, the ground is usually cleared and sometimes burnt to prepare for seed collection. To ease collection, a cover can be spread out on the ground. The optimal time of collection is reached when the fruits have changed in colour from green to brownish. Maturity can be confirmed by a cutting test.



Uses: The fragrant flowers are sometimes used to make necklaces. The wood is not very durable, and is used for temporary structures. The bark is one component of a remedy for dizziness, and the wood's infusions are also employed as a febrifuge (Dy Phon, 2000). The wood is other ways as well in Cambodian traditional medicine (Heang Ponley, 2002, per. comm.)

Current Status: As the wood is valuable and in high demand, this species is over-exploited and in danger of extinction if adequate protection measures are not implemented. The distribution of this species is scattered and its habitats have been destroyed by forestland conversions and selective logging. The number of mature trees has been reduced significantly and it is now difficult to find significant sources of germplasm.

In 2002, the second CTSP meeting on the Forest Gene Conservation Strategy recognized *Cananga latifolia* (Hook.f. & Thomson) Finet & Gagnep. as a priority species and in need of immediate protection.

References:

- Department of Forestry & Wildlife (FA), 2002 (Draft), List of Trade Names of Commercial Wood in Cambodia, Trade Names of Commercial Wood
- Dy Phon, 2000, Dictionary of Plants used in Cambodia.
- Heang Ponley, Director General of Department of Traditional Medicinal Plants, Ministry of Health, 2002, pers. comm
- Lhorn, S, 2002, Distribution of Selected Tree Species for Gene Conservation in Cambodia
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), 1986, Decision No. 050 SSR.KSK: Wood Classification and Minimum Diameter for Allowable Cutting, 12th September.

