

12. *Dasymaschalon lamentaceum* Finet et Gagnep

Taxonomy and Commercial Grade

Cambodian name	: Choeng chap phnom
Scientific name	: <i>Dasymaschalon lamentaceum</i> Finet et Gagnep
Family	: Annonaceae
Commercial grade-Cambodia	: Luxury

Distribution and Habitat: This species is normally found in secondary forests and at the edges of dense forests (Dy Phon, 2000). It is presently known from Stung Treng, Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear (Khorn, 2002; see map).

Gene-Ecological Zones: Central Lowlands (d), Eastern Mekong Basin (F), Central Annamites (G), Southern Annamites (g).

Botanical Description: Shrub, 1-4m tall.

Seed Collection: Seeds of *choeng chap phnom* are usually collected from the tree or 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 fruits have changed in colour from green to brownish. Maturity can be confirmed by a cutting test.

Uses: Leaves are often used as cigarette paper, and ripe fruits are edible. The wood is widely used for the manufacture of high quality furniture, knife handles, and art handicrafts (Dy Phon, 2000).

Current Status: Because the wood is very valuable and in high demand, the species is over-exploited and in danger of extinction if adequate protection measures are not implemented. Its distribution is scattered and its habits have been destroyed by forestland conversions and selective, illegal 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 defined *Dasymaschalon lamentaceum* Finet et Gagnep. as a priority species in need of immediate conservation intervention and appropriate protection. This species is protected by Cambodian Forestry Law No.35.

References:

- Cambodian Forestry Law No. 35, 25th June 1988
- 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
- Khorn, S, 2002, Distribution of Selected Tree Species for Gene conservation in Cambodia
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1986, Decision No. 050 SSR.KSK: Wood Classification and Minimum Diameter for Allowable Cutting, 12th September

