

Spondias

Spondias	
	Fruiting <i>Spondias mombin</i>
Scientific classification	
Kingdom: Plantae (unranked): Angiosperms (unranked): Eudicots (unranked): Rosids Order: Sapindales Family: Anacardiaceae Subfamily: Spondioideae Tribe: Spondiadeae Genus: <i>Spondias</i> L.	
Type species	
<i>Spondias mombin</i> L.	
Species	
17, see text	
Synonyms	
<i>Allospondias</i> (Pierre) Stapf <i>Skoliostigma</i> Lauterb. ^[1]	

Spondias is a genus of flowering plants in the cashew family, Anacardiaceae. The genus consists of 17 described species, 7 of which are native to the Neotropics and about 10 are native to tropical Asia. They are commonly named **hog plums**, **Spanish plums**, **libas** in Bikol and in some cases **golden apples** for their brightly-colored fruit which resemble an apple or large plum at a casual glance. They are only distantly related to apple and plum trees, however. A more unequivocal common name is **mombins**.



Spondias dulcis, fruit, section and seed

They are deciduous or semi-evergreen trees growing to 25 m tall. The leaves are spirally arranged, pinnate, rarely bipinnate or simple. The fruit is a drupe similar to a small mango (in the related genus *Mangifera*), 4-10 cm long, ripening yellow or orange. It has a single seed.

About 10 species of *Spondias* bear edible fruits and have been domesticated for fruit production. These fruits are also consumed by herbivorous mammals such as deer.

A theory regarding the name of the city of Bangkok, Thailand is that the name is derived from **makok** (ມະກອກ), the Thai name for the fruit of *Spondias dulcis*^[2]. *Spondias pinnata* is called *Pulicha kaai* in the Tamil language, which means "sour fruit." It is also called as *Ambade* in Tulu and Konkani. In Sri Lanka its called as 'Amberella'.

The Malesian species of *Spondias* were revised by Ding Hou in 1978.^[3] The most recently recognized species, *Spondias testudinis*, was described in 1998.^[4]

Selected species

- *Spondias cytherea* Sonn.
- *Spondias dulcis* – Tahitian Apple, Pommecythere (Trinidad & Tobago)
- *Spondias haplophylla*
- *Spondias indica*
- *Spondias lakonensis*
- *Spondias mombin* – Yellow Mombin, Gully Plum, Ashanti Plum, "Java plum"
- *Spondias pinnata*
- *Spondias purpurea* L. – Jocote, Purple Mombin, Red Mombin, Ciruela, Siniguela, Sirigwela
- *Spondias radlkoferi*
- *Spondias tuberosa* – Umbú, Imbu, Brazil Plum
- *Spondias venulosa*



Preserved ma-kok, sweet and sour with chili

References

- [1] "Spondias L." (<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/genus.pl?11429>). Germplasm Resources Information Network. United States Department of Agriculture. 2009-11-23. . Retrieved 2010-02-12.
- [2] "ໜັນແລະຕຳບລື້ຖົງວັດ" (<http://www.watarun.org/historyx.html>), watarun.org, accessed March 29, 2011.
- [3] Flora Malesiana series 1, 8(3):395-577.
- [4] John D. Mitchell and Douglas C. Daly. 1998. "The "tortoise's cajá" - a new species of *Spondias* (Anacardiaceae) from southwestern Amazonia" *Brittonia* 50():447-451.

External links

- Flora of China: list of *Spondias* species in China (http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=3&taxon_id=131065)
- ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಾವಾಣಿ » ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರ್ವೆ ಗೆ ಪರ್ಯಾಯಾಯ ಅಮುಟಿ <http://www.prajavani.net/Content/Jun102010/agri20100609188917.asp>

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