Dried type specimen (courtesy MNHN Paris)

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Castanopsis namdinhensis* Hickel & A. Camus

COMMON NAME(S): **Kor men** (Laos)
ກໍ່ຕັ້ນ (Lao alphabetic)
Dẻ gai nam định (Vietnam)

FAMILY: Fagaceae

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Threat status

EN **Endangered.**

Botanic description

Tree, up to **15-30 m tall,** dbh up to 0.5 m.

Bark grey, granular. **Twigs** glabrous. **Buds** small, ovoid, scales oval, subobtuse, puberulent.

Distribution

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.
Lower montane rain forest, between 900-1000 m.

Dried leaf on type specimen showing entire margin) (courtesy MNHN Paris)

Leaves lanceolate and acuminate. Apex cuspidate with an oblique point. Base attenuate or cuneiform. Lamina 9-14 cm long and up to 2.5-3.7 cm wide. Upper surface hairless above, lower surface scaly below. **Margins** normally toothed in the upper 1/4 with upright teeth, or sometimes en- tire. **Secondary veins** 13-14 pairs, anastomosing only slightly visible below. **Petiole** 4-7 mm, greyish, glabrous.

Mature fruit (dried) showing interior of fruit with nut (top), exterior of cupule with spines (center) and interior of cupule (bottom)). (image © J.S. Strijk, www.asianfagaceae.com).

Cupule slightly rounded, depressed, up to 4 cm wide and 3.5 cm high, interior surface silky, exterior slightly hairy. Exterior equipped with very strong, thick thorns with divided branches ending in very sharp points. Cupule wall occasionally bare, with thorns absent from the axis and replaced by appressed bracts, barely visible.

Technical illustration (Camus, Chataigniers 1948).

Dried nut, showing silky hairs, asymmetry and basal scar. (Image © J.S. Strijk, www.asianfagaceae.com).

Nut depressed, almost symmetrical, up to 1 cm high and 1.8 cm wide. Apex mucrone, silky. Scar slightly convex, up to 1-1.5 cm in diameter.

Phenology

Flowering:
Suspected in June-September.

Fruiting:
In December(?)-April of the following year.

Method of dispersion agent:
Rodents (squirrels; rats; mice?).

Light requirements or ecological guild:
To be confirmed.

Uses

None known.

Recommended seed collecting practice for nursery propagation

When fruits are ripe, collect seeds directly from the tree by shaking the branches using long bamboo poles. As seed viability decreases rapidly after falling on the ground and these are prone to predation damage and pests, collecting directly from the tree should be given priority over collecting fruits from the ground. If seed-set is less abundant, infructescences and seeds available on the ground can also be collected for use in nursery propagation.

Spiny fruits and infructescences should not be dehusked (i.e. no removing of the spiny cupules to expose the nuts). This exposes the nuts to pests and desiccation during transport and storage, and complicates identification of collected materials. Infructescences should also not be 'peeled' to remove individual fruits. Groups of trees in this species, fruiting in close proximity of each other can be sampled for seeds as a *'local population'* and collected materials can be mixed in the same bag.

Seeds collected from trees separated from each other by more than 100-150m should not be mixed, but be kept in separate bags. If possible, geographic information should be collected for each *'local population'* and each bag of seeds collected from it. It would also be good practice to include some small branches and leaf material from the fruiting trees with each collected bag of seeds to aid in identification.