



Habit, fruiting tree (image © H.T. Son).

SCIENTIFIC
NAME:

Lithocarpus kontumensis

A.Camus

COMMON
NAME(S):

Kor kong tou (Laos)

ກໍ່ກົງຕູ (Lao alphabetic)

Sồi cau kon tum,

Dẻ kon tum (Vietnam)

FAMILY:

Fagaceae

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Botanic description



Tree, up to 15-18 m. **Young branches** densely tomentose with ochre-colored hairs, more persistent on leafy branches, than on flowering and fruiting branches. **Glabrous** with age, dark brown, densely lenticellate. **Buds** ovoid, with oval, acute scales.



Leaf upper surface and Leaf lower surface (image © H.T. Son).

Leaves broadly ovate. Apex asymmetrically acuminate. Base slightly attenuated. Lamina 15-25 cm long and 4.5-7 cm wide. **Young leaves** with dense ochre-colored hairs on the lower surface and with very prominent and hairy lateral veins underneath. **Mature leaves** leathery, discoloured. Upperside glabrous, dark and slightly shiny. Underside dull, scaly-whitish, appearing glabrous. Midrib indistinct above, but prominent below. Lateral veins 11-13 pairs, soon curving upward, somewhat distinct above, prominent below. **Petiole** 1-1.5 cm long, thick, initially with numerous ochre hairs, then glabrous.

Distribution

Laos, Vietnam.

Reported from dry forest types, up to 1000 m.



Bole and bark (image © H.T. Son).



Threat status

CR

Critically Endangered.



Young fruit (image © H.T. Son).



Fruits (dried), showing scales, fusion of cupules (images © J.S.Strijk, www.asianfagaceae.com).



Fruit (dried), showing apical view of acorn with umbo and style remnants (image © J.S.Strijk, www.asianfagaceae.com).

♀ **Female catkins** 10-12 cm long, axis initially with densely yellowish-hairs. Female flowers in groups of 3-5, yellowish-tomentose, styles 3, erect, quite long.

♂ **Infructescence** 15-17 cm long, densely packed, 5-6 cm in diameter, axis very thick, 9-10 mm in diameter at the base, lenticellate. Base bare, fruits packed in sets of 3-5, fused at the base, ripening biennially. **Acorns** grouped in sets of 3-5, with often only one maturing, sessile. **Cupule** completely hiding the nut, except the mucro and the styles, shaped like a reversed truncated cone, or subovoid. Apex with a navel-like depression. Base rounded, a little

asymmetrical. Up to 2.5-2.8 cm long and 2.3-2.5 cm wide, thick and hardened, exterior with distinct imbricate scaling, tomentose, with basal scales large and apical ones smaller and tightly spaced. Scar occupying the greater part of the fruit, rough. **Pericarp** much thicker than the cupule, reaching 4-5 mm in the upper part of the fruit. **Nut** subovoid, taller than wide, apex attenuate. Cotyledons 2, entirely fused.

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.

Phenology

Flowering:
Undetermined.

Fruiting:
March.

Method of dispersion and/or pollinating agent:
Rodents (squirrels; rats; mice?).

Light requirements or ecological guild:
To be confirmed.

Uses



Bark and cupules rich in tannins.