



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

# *Heliocarpus americanus*

COLOMBIAN COMMON NAME

Balso, balso blanco, majagua, pestaña de mula

TREE FAMILY

**MALVACEAE**

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

**15cm** × **16cm**  
Length Width

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

**30–2500m**

TREE HEIGHT

**LARGE (> 35M)**



DISTRIBUTION



**NATIVE TO COLOMBIA**

NATIVE TO

**Region:** Americas

**Latin America:** Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela

**Colombia:** Antioquia, Boyacá, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, Nariño, Quindío, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca

EXOTIC IN

**Latin America:** Hawaii, Trinidad-Tobago, Windward Islands

## COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM



**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT



**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

TREE MANAGEMENT

Planted by cuttings and seeds. It produces nuts in the shape of eyelashes that contain one to two seeds.

CULTIVATION



**PLANTED**



**NATURAL**

## TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES



**Fuelwood, Lumber, Product**

The tree is sometimes harvested from the wild for local use as a source of lumber and fiber. The bark of the young branches produces a strong, durable fiber which is used to make a thick rope. It is also used to weave mats and baskets. Its bark has a fluid used for panela clarification. Used to make boxes, toys and pencils.

FARM SERVICES



**Coffee Shade, Windbreak, Soil Improvement, Carbon Capture, Water Protection**

Used for water protection and decontamination

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS



**YES**

Attracts biological control agents, Attracts seed dispersers, Attracts pollinators. Attracts a variety of insects, from predatory insects to other groups of insects that feed on plants. This is why they are so visited by insectivorous birds, including resident and migratory species with slender bills such as warblers that producers generally want visiting their farms.

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Plants of the World Online (POWO). (2024). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/>; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2024). IUCN Red List. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>; Fern, Ken (2024). Tropical Plants Database. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://tropical.theferns.info/>; World Flora Online. (2024). World Flora Online. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.worldfloraonline.org/>; Universidad Nacional de Colombia. (2024). Nombres Comunes de las Plantas de Colombia. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <http://www.biovirtual.unal.edu.co/nombrescomunes/es/>; Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). (2024). GBIF. Published on the Internet. Retrieved from <https://www.gbif.org/es/>