



TREE SPECIES (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Dendropanax arboreus

PERU COMMON NAME

Fósforo caspi

TREE FAMILY

ARALIACEAE

AVERAGE LEAF SIZE (CM)

8.2cm × 3.3cm
Length Width

ELEVATIONAL RANGE (M)

0-2600m

TREE HEIGHT

MEDIUM (20-35M)

DISTRIBUTION

**NATIVE TO PERU**

NATIVE TO

Region: Americas**Latin America:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY INFORMATION

COFFEE SYSTEM

**ARABICA**

COFFEE IMPACT

**BENEFICIAL TO COFFEE**

CULTIVATION

**PLANTED****NATURAL**

PREVALENCE

Not Common in Coffee Agroforestry

TREE MANAGEMENT

Planted by seeds and are dispersed by birds and mammals. They are easy to collect but the seeds (5-7 per fruit) do not always ripen at the same time. Ripe fruits are picked by climbing trees and using sticks with metal hooks to remove them. The pulp is removed from the fruits by hand inside a bucket of water. Sinking seeds are used and dried in the sun for 1-2 hours. Without pregermination treatment, an average of 44% germination is obtained with fresh seeds, which occurs between 10 and 66 days after sowing. Seeds remain viable for about 15 months when stored in ambient conditions. Growth in nursery is fast. Seedlings can reach 25-30 cm in height in a time of 5 months. They require partial shade during their initial development. The management of tree shade in cultivation systems requires assisted pruning, forming a crown form. It has a low incidence of pests.

TREE BENEFITS AND USES

FARMER USES

**Firewood, Lumber, Medicinal, Product**

Used for general carpentry, boxes and drawers, interior construction, furniture, veneer, particleboard, tongue depressants, toothpicks, matches and paper pulp, and plywood. The root and leaves are harvested for local medicinal uses.

FARM SERVICES

**Coffee Shade, Soil Improvement**

Coffee Shade: provides very dense shade coverage

Soil Improvement: it provides a large amount of organic matter from leaf drop in the dry season

BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

YES

It provides fruit for insectivorous birds such as blue-headed parrots, saltators, and tanagers. Dry stumps are used by parrots to make their nests because it has a soft wood. The seeds are dispersed by birds and mammals. An important source of honey.

Last Updated: August 14, 2023

Tropical Plants Database, Ken Fern. tropical.theferns.info. 2022-06-22. tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Dendropanax+arboreus; Román, Francisco, et al. Guía para la propagación de 120 especies de árboles nativos de Panamá y el neotrópico. 2012.