

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE REGION

114. TUBANG BAKOD

Tubang Bakod
***Jatropha curcas* L.**
Family Euphorbiaceae

Common Names: Tagumbaw, tagumbaw nga puraw, tawwa (Ilokano); tawwa-tawwa (Abra-Ilokano); balaw (Tuba-Ilokano); katawwa (Kabugao-Isnag); tawwa (Mindaya-Isnag); pali (Mabaka-Gubang and Banao-Itneg); tawwa (Maeng-Itneg);, tawtaw (Botbot and Danao-Kalingga); tawwa-tawwa (Mangali-Kalingga); dallak (Taluktok-Kalingga); tagumbaw (Kankanai); tagumbaw (Bontok); tuba (Kiangan-Ifugao); tuban-iyalad (Banawe-Ifugao); tangan (Bokod-Nabaloi); tawwa-tawwa, tuba (Nabaloi); katawa (Ivatan); tuba (Itawes); tagumbaw (Pangasinan); takumbaw (Sambal); galumbang (Kapampangan); tangan-tangan (Bataan-Tagalog); tangan-tangan-tuba, kirisol (Bulacan-Tagalog); tuba (Rizal, Manila and Mindoro-Tagalog); tuba (Camarines-Bikol); kasla (Hiligaynon); kasla (Kinaraya); katangan-tangan (Maranaw); barantiya (Tiruray); big purge nut, physic nut, purging nut tree (English).

Tubang-bakod is an erect shrub or small tree 2 to 5 m tall. The leaves are entire, angular or somewhat 3 to 5-lobed, 8 to 10 cm long. The flowers are greenish white, 7 to 8 mm across. The fruit is a rounded capsule, fleshy when young, later splitting open when dry, releasing 2 to 3 seeds.

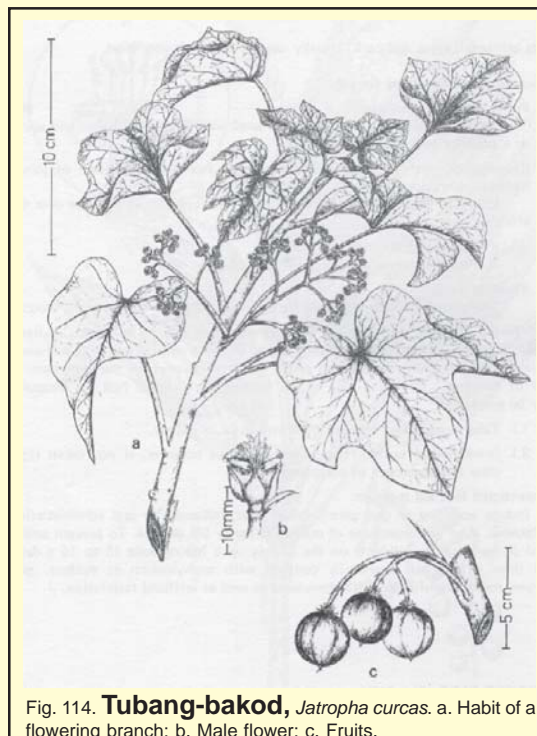


Fig. 114. **Tubang-bakod**, *Jatropha curcas*. a. Habit of a flowering branch; b. Male flower; c. Fruits.

It usually grows on low elevations and ascends to about 1000 m in our region.

This plant is widespread in the Philippines and is commonly grown in and about towns as a hedge. Typically a lowland plant, it is practically absent above 1000 m altitudes in the interior parts of our region. Introduced in the Philippines from Mexico during the Spanish colonial times. Presently distributed all over the tropics.

Parts utilized: Leaves and bark.

Indications and directions for use:

- 1. Pruritus, eczema, scabies.** Heat the fresh leaves over the fire until soft. Bruise the leaves and apply as poultice over the affected area.
- 2. Rheumatism, arthritis, and traumatic injuries (sprains, dislocation of joints, fracture, contusions, etc.)** Either of these two preparations may be used as poultice over the affected area.
 - a. Pounded fresh leaves or bark.
 - b. Pounded leaves or bark, slightly cooked in oil.
- 3. Bleeding wound.** The pounded fresh leaves or bark is used as a poultice over the wound.

Note: The seed kernel in the fruit, when eaten, is quite poisonous. It has a drastic purgative action. About 3 to 5 pieces of the grounded kernel is sufficient to cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and a burning sensation in the abdomen. In case of accidental poisoning, one of the following traditional first aid measures may be employed:

- a. Take in sufficient amount of brown sugar or honey.
- b. Drink salted water (This is less effective, however, if not taken right after the occurrence of poisoning).

Conventional first aid measure: Induce vomiting or give gastric lavage first, followed by oral administration of laxative. Also give injections of normal saline or 5% glucose. To prevent settlement of heme or its products on the kidney, give baking soda (5 to 15 g daily oral dose). IF serious hemolysis coupled with asphyxiation is evident, give oxygen, minor transfusion, CNS stimulants as well as artificial respiration.

This series is based on the very useful handbook, **Common Medicinal Plants of the Cordillera Region** (revised and expanded edition), published in 1989 by the Community Health Education, Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (CHESTCORE). The book was written by Leonardo L. Co, assisted by other Book Project Committee members Dominga Anosan, Victoria T. Tauli, Ruth G. Manzano, Dr. Elizabeth C. Regalado, Robert C. Regalado, Dr. Yvonne K. Belen, Dr. Abigail C. Tauli, and Daisy C. Valentin. With line-drawing illustrations by Amor N. Bans, Roberto N. Cada, Pedro F. Carino, Consuelo B. Damaso, Levi M. Gregorio, Lino Montebon, and Cap Reyes.