

Aquilaria

Aquilaria is a genus of fifteen^[1] species of trees in the Thymelaeaceae, native to southeast Asia. They occur particularly in the rainforests of Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Northern India, the Philippines, Borneo and New Guinea. The trees grow to 6–20 m tall. The leaves are alternate, 5–11 cm long and 2–4 cm broad, with a short acuminate apex and an entire margin. The flowers are yellowish-green, produced in an umbel; the fruit is a woody capsule 2.5–3 cm long.

The genus is best known, together with *Gyrinops*, as the principal producer of the resin-suffused agarwood, especially *Aquilaria malaccensis*.^{[1][2]} The depletion of wild trees from indiscriminate cutting for agarwood has resulted in the trees being listed and protected as an endangered species.^{[1][2][3]} Projects are currently underway in some countries in southeast Asia to infect cultivated *Aquilaria* trees artificially to produce agarwood in a sustainable manner.^[3] In Indonesia, for example, there have been proposals to encourage the planting of gaharu, as it is known as locally, in eastern Indonesia, particularly in the province of Papua.^[4]



Aquilaria sinensis habitus

1 Species

- *Aquilaria acuminata* (Merr.) Quisumb., 1946, originally *Gyrinopsis acuminata*
- *Aquilaria apiculata* Merr., 1922
- *Aquilaria baillonii* Pierre ex Lecomte & Leandri, 1949
- *Aquilaria banaensae* Phamh. 1996
- *Aquilaria beccariana* Tiegh. 1893
- *Aquilaria brachyantha* (Merr.) Hallier f.
- *Aquilaria citrinicarpa* (Elmer) Hallier f.
- *Aquilaria crassna* Pierre ex Lecomte, 1915
- *Aquilaria cumingiana* (Decne.) Ridl., det. Ding Hou, 1959
- *Aquilaria filaria* (Oken) Merr., 1950
- *Aquilaria grandiflora* Benth., 1861
- *Aquilaria hirta* Ridl.
- *Aquilaria malaccensis*, Lam., 1783, synonyms *A. agallocha* and *A. secundaria*^[3]
- *Aquilaria microcarpa* Baill.
- *Aquilaria ophispermum* Poir.
- *Aquilaria parvifolia* (Quisumb.) Ding Hou, 1960
- *Aquilaria pentandra* Blanco, 1837
- *Aquilaria rostrata* Ridl.
- *Aquilaria rugosa* K.Le-Cong & Kessler, 2005
- *Aquilaria sinensis* Gilg, 1894
- *Aquilaria subintegra* Ding Hou
- *Aquilaria urdanetensis* Hallier, 1922 (Philippines)
- *Aquilaria yunnanensis* S.C.Huang, 1985

2 References

- [1] Ng, L.T., Chang Y.S. and Kadir, A.A. (1997) "A review on agar (gaharu) producing Aquilaria species" *Journal of Tropical Forest Products* 2(2): pp. 272-285

- [2] Barden, Angela (2000) *Heart of the Matter: Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for Aquilaria malaccensis* TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, ISBN 1-85850-177-6
- [3] Broad, S. (1995) "Agarwood harvesting in Vietnam" *TRAFFIC Bulletin* 15:96
- [4] Theresia Sufa, 'Gaharu: Indonesia's endangered fragrant wood', *The Jakarta Post*, 2 February 2010.

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