

# TIBIG

(*Ficus nota* (Blancoi) Merr.)

Tree to 5m tall, stem to 20 cm or more in diameter, stem to and branches often with protuberances (tubercles) where inflorescences (figs) are borne; crown usually wide-spreading; young twig hairy. Leaves simple, alternate, oblong to elliptic, or obovate, 15-35 x 8-12 cm; base auriculate, apex abruptly acute, the margins irregularly but distinctly toothed, soft-hairy beneath, with 7-9 pairs of lateral nerves; petiole 3-5 cm long, hairy. Flowers minute, in clustered figs borne on the main stem and older branches. Fruit (fig) subglobose, 2-3.5 cm in diameter, glabrous, fleshy pedunculate, green or brownish, turning yellow. Usually grows in forests and thickets at low elevations and often along the streams. Distributed in Philippines and Borneo. The fruits are said to be eaten raw, sometimes planted near springs and to generate more water.

Source: Fernando et al 2004

# Propagation of Tibig (*Ficus nota*) from Seeds\*



Tibig fruits in Mt Malarayat are in different colors – green, yellow and maroon. For the fruit used in this seed propagation, the unripe fruit (left) is green, hard and has distinct white sap. The ripe (right) on the other hand is soft, yellow orange and has clear sap, almost watery.



1. The fruit collection is done either by directly picking them or by using a stick.

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2. The seeds are removed from the pericarp (left) and macerated in a basin with water to ensure that the fruit pulp is separated from the tiny seeds (right).



3. The excess pulp that may attract ants should be removed by sieving (left). A mosquito net and cheesecloth were used by the community member.

4. The sieved seeds are then placed in a flat tray or basin and sun-dried for a day or two (right) depending on the thickness of the seed clumps. Make sure that the seeds are completely dried before storing them in a dry container as molds would attack it that can cause decay if not completely dried.





5. The dried seeds of tibig should feel like loose sand.

6. The tibig seeds germinate after 5-7 days after sowing. It was observed that the tiny seedlings prefer moderately dry soil and they wilt if frequently watered after germination. As this was done during summer season, a spray was used in watering the seedlings.



#### Reference:

Fernando, E.S. et. al. 2004. Flowering Plants of Mt. Makiling. Philippines: ASEAN KOREA Environmental Cooperation Unit.