

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Caesalpinia coriaria*

[Synonyms : *Caesalpinia thomaea*, *Libidibia coriaria*, *Poinciana coriaria*]

**DIVI-DIVI** is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to Middle America it has strongly scented, greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as American sumach, Cascalote, Libi-dibi, Livi-divi, and *Vannia* (Persian). It is attractive to bees.

*Coriaria* is derived from Latin *corii*- (hide, skin) component and means ‘like leather’.

Authorities believe that divi-divi was introduced to India and Sri Lanka in about 1834, and the Indonesian island of Java at about the same time or a little earlier. It was not until 1878 that it reached Singapore.

The tree is a national emblem of Curaçao.

As the curled, brown fruit pods contain 25-45% tannin this species is in demand as a source of tannin. Some countries that cultivate divi-divi not only use the tannin locally but also as an export commodity. It gives a light-coloured leather, and a black dye. In Mexico it has been used for making ink.

Locally the very hard, dark reddish-brown wood, from which a red dye is sometimes extracted, is employed in general carpentry.

Medicinally, an infusion of the fruit pods has been used locally in Java (now an Indonesian island) to treat sores.