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*Polyscias fruticosa*

[Synonyms : *Nothopanax fruticosus*, *Panax fruticosa*]

**MING ARALIA** is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native from India to Polynesia it has small, greenish flower heads.

It is also known as *Đinh lăng* (Vietnamese), *Kadongdong china* (Sundanese), *Kadongdong laut* (Sundanese), *Lebkru* (Thai), *Pokok teh* (Malaysian), and *Tagitagi* (Samoan).

*Fruticosa* is Latin (bushy, become).

Locally especially in Malaysia and southern Vietnam the roots and aromatic leaves have provided a condiment for fish, meat and soup.

In frost-free parts of Asia ming aralia has been cultivated as an ornamental and (poor) hedging. For authorities on the south-eastern Asian region this plant is considered to be of prime importance in that area as an ornamental and other uses such as a vegetable, condiment, hedging plant or source of medicine are classed as of secondary interest today.

Medicinally, Javanese herbalists have used the leaves in some remedies while Fijian medical practitioners have found the bark of value.