

## ***Macaranga peltata* (Vatta)**

*Macaranga peltata* is a species of flowering plant in the family Euphorbiaceae. It is a large shrub or small tree native to the tropical forests of Asia and Pacific Islands.

### **Classification**

Kingdom: Plantae

Class: Angiosperms

Class: Eudicots

Class: Rosids

Order: Malpighiales

Genus: *Macaranga*

Species: *peltata*



### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERS**

**Height:** It typically grows to about fifteen to twenty meters in height.

**Trunk:** It is often straight and cylindrical with smooth-greyish bark.

**Leaves:** The leaves are shield shaped with distinctive round base and pointed tip.

**Flowers:** It produces small yellowish green flowers and are arranged in clusters. The flowers are unisexual and are dioecious.

**Fruits:** The fruit is a small capsule usually about one to two centimeter in diameter.

### **DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT**

Tree provides habitat for various insects, birds, and small mammals. It's leaves, flowers, and fruits are food sources for these animals.

### **ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE**

In traditional medicine, various plant parts are used to treat illness and it is also a biodiversity support.

### **INTERESTING FACTS**

It has had a symbiotic relationship with ants. The tree produces extrafloral nectaries, These nectaries attract ants, which in turn protect the tree from herbivores by attacking. This mutualistic relationship helps *Macaranga peltata* thrive in its natural habitat.