

# *Albizia adinocephala* (Donn. Sm.) Britton & Rose

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FABACEAE (BEAN FAMILY)

*Pithecelobium adinocephalum* Donn. Sm., *P. discolor* Pitt.

Chaperno blanco, gavilán, gavilana

*Albizia adinocephala* grows on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Central America from Belize to Panama.

*Albizia adinocephala* is a fast-growing, medium-sized tree reaching 6 to 18 m in height and 30 to 45 cm d.b.h. The tree has a straight trunk, dense crown, and gray, smooth bark. The leaves are alternate and bipinnate, with stipules; the pinnae are 1 to 3 jugate; the leaflets are 2 to 5 jugate, lanceolate or ovate (sometimes ovate-elliptic), 2 to 6 cm long, 1 to 2 cm wide, glabrous, pale beneath, with an extrafloral nectary at the petiole base. The tree grows from sea level to 1200 m in a wide range of soil types, rainfall, and temperatures.

The tree is used for firewood. Because the species can grow in a wide range of environmental conditions, this author thinks it has potential for forest recovery and planting in agroforestry systems.

*Albizia adinocephala* flowers most of the year; however, in the seasonal climate of the low and middle lands, it flowers primarily from July through August. The small white flowers have paniculate heads and white stamens. The fruit is a flat, glabrous legume, 10 to 17 cm long and 1.5 to 2 cm wide. The fruit matures 7 to 8 months after flowering, most frequently from September to April.

