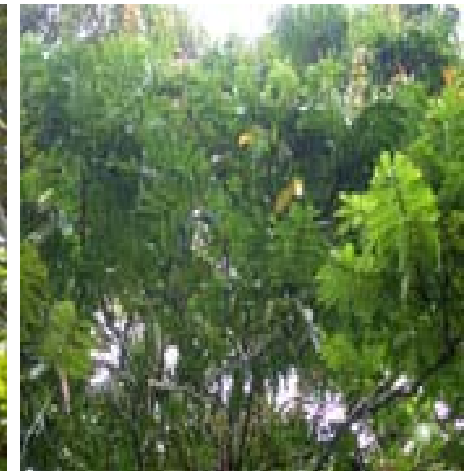


## THE RICHEST HOST PLANT FOR LEAF CHEWING INSECTS

*Pometia pinnata* is one of the most common species of trees that occur in the secondary and primary forests of the lowland rain forest regions of Papua New Guinea. It is the host to a vast number of insect species. Papua New Guineans use this particular plant in many ways.

- THE USES OF *POMETIA PINATA*
- Baitabag tokples / OTT.
  
- People of Baitabag KWMA use the plant in the following ways:
  - 1. Leaf: leaves are used as roofs.
  - 2. Fruit. Edible
  - 3. Branches. as fire wood
  - 4. Young shoots. as building materials
  - 5. Trunk. timber

- *POMETIA PINNATA* (Ton tree)



- young leaves

- matured leaves

- Our studies in Madang found that *P. pinnata* is host to more than 170 different species of herbivorous insects.