

# *Boswellia serrata* Roxb. ex Colebr.

**Synonyms** : *Boswellia glabra* Roxb.

**Family** : Burseraceae

**Parts Used** : Bark, Gum

## Vernacular Names

English : Indian olibanum tree

Malayalam : Kuntirikkam, Parangisambrani, Samprani

Hindi : Salai

Sanskrit : Sallaki, kunduruskah

Assamese : Loban

Bengali : Kundur, Luban, SalaiGujarati: Dhupdo, Saledo

Gujarathi : Salai

Kannada : Guggula, Madi

Tamil : Parankisampirani

Telugu : Parangisambrani, Sambrani



**Distribution and habitat:** In dry forests from Punjab to West Bengal and in peninsular India.

**Botany:** A medium to large sized, deciduous tree, up to 7 m in height with ash coloured papery bark peeling off in thin flakes. Young shoots pubescent.

- **Leaves:** Imparipinnate, leaflets ovate or ovate-lanceolate, variable.
- **Flowers:** Small, white, in axillary racemes or panicles.
- **Fruit:** Drupes 12 mm long, trigonous, splitting along 3 valves, scarlet red when young, turns white at maturity.
- **Seeds:** Compressed, pendulous.

**Chemical constituents:** Serratol, 8 tetracyclic triterpene acids viz.  $\beta$ -boswellic acid, its 11-ketoderivatives and their acetates, 3  $\alpha$ - and 3  $\beta$ -hydroxytirucall-8,24-dien-21-oic acid, 3 $\alpha$ -acetoxytirucall-8,24-dien-21-oic acid and 3-ketotirucall-8,24-dien-21-oic acid are important

**Uses:** Anti inflammatory, Bark used in asthma, ulcers, haemorrhoids, skin diseases. Gum resin - fevers, piles, goiter, jaundice, arthritis, anti inflammatory

