

Thespesia populnea (Linn.) Soland ex Correamal

Family : Malvaceae

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Portia tree

Malayalam : Poovarasu

Hindi : Parasapipal

Sanskrit : Haripuchah

Tamil : Poovarasamkallal

Telugu : Gangaravi



Distribution and habitat: Coastal regions throughout India, often planted as avenue tree.

Botany: A fairly large quick growing, ever green up to 18 m in height with grayish brown fissured bark.

• **Leaves** : Simple alternate, long petioled, cordate, entire, acuminate, prominent nerves 5-7 with peltate scales on one or both surfaces.

• **Flowers** : Yellow with purple base, slowly changing to purple on withering.

• **Fruits** : Globose or oblong brown capsules covered with minute peltate scales , pubescent channelled along the back.

Properties: The plant is astringent, acrid, cooling, depurative, anti-inflammatory, haemostatic, vulnerary, alterant, antidiarrhoeal and anti bacterial.

Uses: It is useful in dermatopathy such as scabies, psoriasis, leprosy, urethritis, gonorrhoea, haemorrhoids, dysentery, cholera, diabetes, dipsia, cough, asthma, and catarrh.

Propagation: By seeds

