

# *Monoon longifolium* (Sonn.) B. Xue & R.M.K. Saunders

**Synonyms** : Polyalthia longifolia (Sonn.) Thwaites

**Family** : Annonaceae

**Parts Used** : Bark

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Mast tree

Malayalam : Aranamaram

Hindi : Debdari

Sanskrit : Ulkatah

Bengali : Debdari

Gujarathi : Asopalov

Kannada : Assoti

Tamil : Asogu

Telugu : Asokamu



**Distribution and habitat:** Cultivated in drier parts of India

**Botany:** A tall handsome tree; young branches slender, glabrous.

• **Leaves** : Simple, green, membranous, 7.5-23 by 1.82-3.8 cm, narrowly lanceolate, tapering to a fine point, shining, both surfaces glabrous, margins undulate; petioles about 6 mm long.

• **Flowers:** 2.52-3.8 cm across, yellowish green, in fascicles or shortly peduncled umbels. Pedicels slender, 2.5-3.8 cm long, with a small, pubescent, deciduous bract about or above the middle, sepals 4 mm long, triangular, pubescent, the tips reflexed. Petals subequal, linear, spreading, tapering to a point; ripe carpels 18 mm long, numerous, stalked, ovoid, obtuse at both ends, glabrous, stalk 12 mm long, stout, glabrous.

• **Seeds** : Smooth, shining.

**Properties:** The bark is bitter, acrid, cooling, febrifuge, antidermatic, antipyretic and anthelmintic.

**Chemical constituent:** Leucocyanidin

**Uses:** Used against fever, skin diseases, diabetes, hypertension and helminthiasis

**Formulations:** *Asoka ghrtam*

**Propagation:** Seeds