

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