

# *Pongamia pinnata* (Linn.) Pierre

**Synonyms** : *P. glabra* Vent. , *Derris indica* (Lam.) Bennet , *Cystisus pinnatus* Lam.

**Family** : Fabaceae

**Parts Used** : Root , Leaf, Seed, Bark, Flower, Oil

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Indian beech

Malayalam : Ungu, Pongu

Hindi : Karanja

Sanskrit : Karanj

Kannada : Hongae

Tamil : Puggam

Telugu : Kangu



**Distribution and habitat:** Found throughout India

**Botany:** A medium sized semi-evergreen glabrous tree with a short bole and spreading crown up to 18 m or more in height.

• **Bark** : Greyish green or brown, very often mottled with dark brown dots, specks, lines or streaks.

• **Leaves** : Imparipinnately 3 compound, leaflets 5-7, ovate, acuminate or elliptic.

• **Flowers** : Lilac or pinkish white, fragrant, in axillary racemes.

• **Fruits** : Thick, woody, smooth, yellowish grey when ripe varying in size and shape, elliptic to obliquely oblong, 4-7.5 cm long and 1.7-3.2 cm broad with a short curved beak.

• **Seeds**: Usually 1 or 2 per pod, 1.7-2 cm long and 1.2-1.8 cm broad, elliptic or reniform, wrinkled with reddish brown, leathery testa.

## **Chemical constituents:**

• Stem- Karanjin, pingapin, pongaflavone

• Seed cake- Glabrin, four furanoflavones, kanjone, pongaglabrone and long chain fatty acid

**Uses:** Root and bark are bitter, acrid, hot, anthelmintic and alexipharmic. The seeds are anthelmintic, hematinic, bitter, acrid and carminative.

• It is used for cleaning teeth, strengthening gums and treating gonorrhoea and cleaning fistulous sores.

• It is useful for treating internal bleeding, piles, beriberi, skin diseases, ulcers, flatulence, dyspepsia, cough, diabetes, inflammations, ear-ache, pectoral diseases, hydrocele, bronchitis, leucoderma, cutaneous affection, herpes, scabies, ulcers and rheumatism.

**Formulations:** *Nagaradi tailam*, *Varanadi Kasayam*

**Propagation:** Seeds or root suckers.

