

Pterocarpus santalinus Linn.

Family : Fabaceae

Parts Used : Heartwood

Vernacular Names

English : Red sandal wood

Malayalam : Rektha chandanam

Hindi : Rektha chandana

Sanskrit : Rektha chandanah

Gujarathi : Ratanjali

Kannada : Chandanalal

Tamil : Chivappu chandanam

Telugu : Rekthagandamu



Distribution & habitat: Seen in Southern India in the Deccan, in the hills of Cuddapah; South Kurnool and North Arcot of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu upto 1,500 ft. Naturally it occupies the dry deciduous forest type "The Red sanders forests"

Botany: A moderate-sized deciduous tree upto 11m in height with blackish brown bark, deeply cleft in to rectangular plates and dark purple heartwood.

• **Leaves:** Compound, leaflets 3-5, broad elliptic, obtuse, under surface pale, clothed with fine hairs.

• **Flowers:** Yellow, in short simple or sparingly branched axillary or terminal racemes.

• **Fruits:** Oblique pods, gradually narrowed into a short stalk, winged the central hard portion containing the seeds,

• **Seeds:** Reddish brown and smooth.

Properties: Antibilious, cooling, anthelmintic, antidermatic, antiinflammatory, antirheumatic, aphrodisiac, natural dye, ophthalmic, antipyretic, astringent, bitter, diaphoretic and febrifuge

Chemical constituent:

• Fresh shoots yield glucosides and colouring matter.

• Heart wood contains pterocarpol , Pterocarpitol, isoptercarpolone and pterocarpodiolone together with β -eudesmol etc

Uses: Eye troubles, headache, haemophilic problems, inflammation, thirst, vomiting and skin diseases.

Propagation: By seeds.

