

Sapindus trifoliatus L.

Synonyms : *Sapindus laurifolia* Vahl.

Family : Sapindaceae

Parts Used : Root , Fruit , Bark

Vernacular Names

English : Soap nut tree

Malayalam : Urunchi, Uruvanchi, pasakkotta

Hindi : Ritta

Sanskrit : Phenilah, Aristakah

Kannada : Kugatemara, Kugatekaye

Tamil : Puvankottai, Ponnankottai

Telugu : Kunkutikaya, Kumkucettu, Phenilamu, Kumkullu



Distribution and habitat: Throughout India.

Botany: A medium sized deciduous tree up to 20 m in height with grey smooth bark, peeling off in scales.

- **Leaves:** Pinnate, leaflets 2-3 pairs, terminal pair being the largest.

- **Flowers** : white, polygamous, male flowers many, bisexual flowers few, all in the same pubescent panicle.

- **Fruits** : Fleshy drupes, the pulp becoming a saponaceous wrinkled rind on drying.

- **Seeds** : Black.

Chemical constituents: Saponins- sapindoside A and sapindoside B. Nut contains Kaempferol, quercetin and β -sitosterol. Saponin emarginatoside from fruits.

Uses:

- The root and bark are expectorant and demulcent.

- The fruits are acrid, bitter, thermogenic, emetic, astringent, expectorant and tonic.

- Treatment of Hysteria, epilepsy and hemicrania, ulcers, asthma, diarrhoea, cholera, verminosis, lumbago and gastralgia

Propagation: Seeds

