

Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd.exDel.sub.

Synonyms : *A.arabica*, *A.indica*

Family : Fabaceae

Parts Used : Bark, Gum

Vernacular Names

English : Babul tree, Black babool

Malayalam : Karivelam

Hindi : Kikar, Babul, Babur

Sanskrit : Barburah, Vavari



Distribution and habitat: Throughout India. It can withstand drought and flooded conditions and prefers alkaline to neutral soil condition.

Botany: A moderate sized tree upto 10 m in height with dark brown or longitudinally, fissured rough bark and reddish brown heart wood, branchlets slender, pubescent when young.

• **Leaves:** Bipinnately compound, main rachis downy often, with glands, stipular spines highly variable, often whitish, straight and sharp, pinnate 4-9 pairs, leaflets sub sessile, 10-25 pairs, nearly glabrous.

• **Flowers:** Golden yellow in globose heads, peduncles axillary in fascicles of 2-6.

• **Fruits:** Stalked, compressed, moniliform pods with constrictions between the seeds.

• **Seeds:** 8-12 per pod.

Properties: Aphrodisiac, anthelmintic, diuretic, antidermatic, antirheumatic, expectorant, astringent, roots and methanolic extract of leaves have antiviral properties

Chemical constituents: Leaves: ethyl gallate and γ -sitosterol, D-pinitol. Bark contains high concentration of tannins, epigallocatechin, methyl gallate, gallic acid, umbelliferone, (p)-mollisacacidin, niloticane. Gum contains sugars like D-galactose, L-arabinose, L-rhamnose, arabinogalactan protien, tannic acid, cresol and methylsalicylate. Roots contain hentriacontane, lapachol, n-hentriacontanol, sitosterol, octacosanol, botulin and β -amyrin⁴, Polygalloyltannin etc.

Uses: Haemorrhages, ulcers, chronic dysentery, skin diseases, burning sensation, bronchitis, leprosy, oral ulcers, odontopathy, pneumonosis, internal fevers and general debility.

Propagation: Seeds, stem cuttings

