

Bauhinia acuminata L.

Family : Fabaceae

Parts Used : Leaf, Bark

Vernacular Names

English : Bauhinia

Malayalam : Vella mandaram, Malayathi

Hindi : Ashta, Asoda, Guriaa, Marvil

Sanskrit : nupushpaka, Kushali, Vanaraja, Yugmapatra, Svetakanchan

Bengali : Banraj

Gujarathi : Apta.

Kannada : Vana santig

Tamil : Arai, Arikka, Sallagi, Aram, Mandhari arikka

Telugu : Pachare, Adibiyavise, Manjiyare



Distribution and habitat: Through out India.

Botany: A small crooked tree with dark scabrous bark. Branches numerous and drooping.

- **Leaf:** Broader than length, 2.0-5.0 X 2.5-6.3 cm, green and glabrous above, white and more or less tomentose beneath, leaves usually cordate. Petioles 6-16 cm long, pubescent.

- **Flowers:** Terminal or leaf opposed racemes; buds pointed and pedicels 3-4.5 mm long. Calyx pubescent, tube very short; limb 6-8 mm long. Petals oblanceolate, acute, 10-11.5 mm long, white or pale yellow. Stamens 10, all fertile; filaments densely hairy at the base. Ovary pubescent; stigma sessile.

- **Fruit:** Pods stalked 15-25 by 1.32- 2.2 cm, glabrous and turgid; stalk 2-2.5 cm long.

- **Seeds:** 12-20, oblong, compressed, 6-10 by 4.5-6 mm, black.

Chemical constituents:

- Flowers contain flavanoids-kaempferol-3-galactoside and kaempferol-3-rhamnoglucoside.

- Stem bark yields hentriacontane, octacosanol and stigmasterol.

- Stem yields b-sitosterol, lupeol and a flavanone glycoside-5, 7-dimethoxy flavanone 4-O-a-L- rhamnopyranoside-b-D-glucopyranoside.

Uses:

- Used against tumor. Leaves used against headache, malarious fevers

- Seeds possess human blood agglutinating activity.

- Stem bark is hypothermic, Neuro tonic and depressant.

- Bud, flower, leaf and stem bark are antibacterial.

- Stem possesses juvenoid activity. Bark is alterative, tonic, antileprotic and antirheumatic.

- Bud is antidysenteric.

- Root is carminative and antidote for snakebite.

- Bark, flower and root promote suppuration.

- Bark and bud are astringent and vermifuge

Agro technology

Propagation: By seed. Seeds are formed in February-March. Seeds collected from the dried pods are soaked in water for 12 hours before sowing in seedbeds. At four-leaved stage, they are to be transferred to polybags. Two-month-old seedlings from polybags are used for field planting at a distance of 6-7.5 m.

Harvesting: The plant flowers on the third year. At the end of tenth year the tree can be cut and wood used for medicinal purposes.

