

Bauhinia tomentosa Linn.

Family : Fabaceae

Parts Used : Whole plant

Vernacular Names

English : Wild champak

Malayalam : Manjamandaram, Kanjanam

Hindi : Kachnar, Kanchana

Sanskrit : Pitakanchana

Tamil : Kattumandarai, Kanjani

Telugu : Adavimandaramu, Mandara



Distribution and habitat: Seen in many parts of India. Often cultivated in Ceylon, tropical Africa etc.

Botany: An erect shrub; branches slender, zigzag and downy.

• **Leaf:** Broader than long divided a little less than half a down into two rounded lobes, glabrous above, pubescent beneath, base truncate or rarely sub cordate, petioles long pubescent thickened at both ends.

• **Flower:** Bell-shaped, bright yellow flowers with a black to deep maroon coloured centre. Usually in pairs, on short axillary or leaf opposed peduncles; bracts linear, long, pedicels long, two bracteolate. Calyx long, velvety, pubescent; petals long, much imbricated, obovate, spathulate, yellow, the upper with a purple blotch on the face. Stamens 10, all fertile, sub equal. Ovary distinctly stout, densely tomentose; style long, stigma peltate. Pods stalked, flat, slightly puberulous when fully ripe, veined.

• **Fruits:** Pods dehiscent; stipe 10-12.5 cm long, tomentose or glabrous

• **Seed:** Greenish brown, oblong, rounded at the apex, 0.5 mm- 0.6 mm in diameter

Chemical constituents: Flower- quercetin, isoquercetin, rutin, Seed- ebony oil, saponins, mucilage.

Uses: The fruit is diuretic. Seed is aphrodisiac. The bruised bark is externally applied on tumours and wounds. Seed is used for wound healing.

Propagation: By seeds

