

Anthocephalus

CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Gentianales
Family:	Rubiaceae
Genus:	<i>Anthocephalus</i>
Species:	<i>cadamba</i>
Varnacular Name:	Kadamb



PLANT PROFILE:

It is a large tree with a broad crown and straight cylindrical bole. It is quick growing, large; has large spreading and grows rapidly in first 6-8 year and produces golden ball of flowers. The tree may reach a height of 45 m with trunk diameters of 100- (160) cm. The tree sometimes has small buttresses and a broad crown. The bark is grey, smooth in young trees, rough and longitudinally fissured in old trees. Leaves glossy green, opposite, simple more or less sessile to petiolate, ovate to elliptical (15-50 x 8-25 cm). Flowers inflorescence in clusters; terminal globose heads without bracteoles, subsessile fragrant, orange or yellow flowers; Flowers bisexual, 5-merous, calyx tube funnel-shaped, corolla gamopetalous saucer-shaped with a narrow tube, the narrow lobes imbricate in bud. Fruitlets numerous with their upper parts containing 4 hollow or solid structures. Seed trigonal or irregularly shaped.

USES:

The timber is used for plywood, light construction, pulp and paper, boxes and crates, dug-out canoes, and furniture components. Kadamba yields a pulp of satisfactory brightness and performance as a hand sheet. The wood can be easily impregnated with synthetic resins to increase its density and compressive strength. The alkaloids cadamine and isocadamine are isolated from the leaves of Kadamba. Kadamb tree leaves is used for curing diabetes: Composition cadambine and dihydroconchonine, two types of alkaloids prepared from the extracts of the Kadamb tree (*Mitragyna parvifolia*) leaves, when taken for a period ranging from 4-10 months cures diabetes. One of the quinoline alkaloids in the medicine, cadambine, removed insensitivity of insulin receptors situated in adipose tissues of the muscles while the other, dihydrocinchonine, regulated the production of endogenous insulin. The frequency of administration of the drug varied on the patient's condition. In the case of new patients it is generally one tablet a month while with chronic patients it is once a week.