

Flowering Trees



Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb. of Leguminosae is a lofty tree common in dry deciduous forests. It generally has a straight bole and a spreading crown. Leaflets are large, tough, leathery with several lateral veins, which run parallel to one another. Flowers are borne on branched inflorescence, which is often terminal on a leafy branch. The sepals are dark-brown and the petals are yellow. The pod is winged all around with 1-2 seeds and is indehiscent unlike those of most legumes.

P. Marsupium is cultivated for its valuable timber. The native natural strands of this tree are fast disappearing due to over exploitation. This has led to inclusion of this plant in the list of endangered species. Extracts of tender vegetative regions of this plant are used as remedy for diarrhoea, dysentery, fever and toothache. The aqueous infusion of the wood is believed to control diabetes.