

Flowering Trees



Pterygota alata (Roxb.) R.Br. (Hindi: Pahari) of Sterculiaceae is a large deciduous tree with high narrow crown and horizontal branches. Bark is greyish-brown, more or less smooth, but with horizontal wrinkles. Leaves are simple and large. Inflorescence is branched, and covered with rusty-hairs and few flowered. Flowers are brownish-yellow; male with no petals and sterile ovaries, bisexual but functionally female flowers. Follicle (fruit that dehisces on one suture) is woody, about 12 cm across and minutely reddish brown-felted outside. Seeds are many and winged.

P. alata is often cultivated in gardens and also as avenue tree. Wood is white, soft and elastic. Drums are made of the wood in some parts of India. The fibre of the bark is sometimes used for rough cordage.