



## Flowering Trees

*Cerbera odollam* Gaertn. of the family Apocynaceae is a moderate-sized evergreen tree distributed in the coastal swamps of India and other parts of South Asia.

Bark is greyish-brown with longitudinal fissures. Branchlets are whorled with leaves crowded at the ends. Lamina is lanceolate or oblanceolate, glabrous, green, shining above with prominent veins. Flowers are sweet-scented and occur in stout, stalked cymes. Petals are white, showy with a yellow throat. Fruit is green when young that has the shape of mango, fibrous and encloses an ovoid white kernel which turns violet upon exposure to air.

The plant yields a milky latex which is poisonous.