PLANT FACT SHEET

Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.

GENUS *Pterocarpus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Malabar kino, Indian kino tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Seeds, Leaves

The exudate from the bark is used in some wines.
The flowers and seeds are eaten.
The young leaves are boiled and eaten as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 15-20 m high. The trunk is straight with spreading branches. The bark is thick and yellowish-grey. It is corky with cracks along it. It peels off in large scaled revealing a rusty inner bark. The gum is blood red. The leaves are alternate. The leaflets have one at the end. There are 5-7 leaflets which are 8 cm long by 5 cm wide. They are shiny. The flowers are yellowish and have a scent. They occur in large loose clusters. These are 8-11 cm long. Flowers fall in the evening. The fruit is round but flat like a coin. They have a ring around it. They are 5 cm across. There are 1-2 seeds.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in forests all over India. It needs well drained slopes.

NOTES

It is indigenous to India. The gum is used for dyeing. The wood, bark and leaf extracts are used to treat diabetes.

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