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Prakash Shikshan Mandal's

LOKNETE RAJARAMBAPU PATIL

AYURVEDIC MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL,

P.G. INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH CENTER, ISLAMPUR

DIST-SANGLI (MAHARASHTRA) INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF DRAVYAGUNA



KASHTADARU

Marathi:

Botanical name:

Synonyms:

Family:

Common name:

Description:

Ashok(Khota)

Polyalthia longifolia(Sonn.)

Unona longifolia, *Uvaria longifolia*

Annonaceae

False Ashok

Ashok is native to India and Srilanka. Somehow, the name Ashok has stuck in north India, although the "real" Ashok is what is also called Sita Ashok. The weeping, branching habit of this 25-foot tall tree gives it a narrow columnar shape. Glossy green, long, narrow leaves have attractive wavy edges. Ashok is commonly seen as a lofty column, very graceful with its downward-sweeping branchlets and shining, green foliage ; but sometimes wide-spreading slender branches issue from the straight trunk and form a compact symmetrical crown. It is a very popular tree in India. The bark is smooth and dark greyish-brown. Flowers appear during March and April. For a short period — two or three weeks only — the tree is covered with a profusion of delicate, star-like flowers, which, being palest-green in colour, give the tree a peculiar hazy appearance. They grow in clusters from small protuberances all along the dark branchlets. Each flower, borne on a slim, green stem has a tiny calyx and six long, narrow, wavy petals arranged in two sets of three.

Attributes-

Rasa- Tikta, kashay, Vipaka- Katu , Veerya - Sheet , Guna-

Medicinal uses:

The leaves are used for ornamental decoration during festivals. The tree is a focal point in gardens throughout India. The tree can be pruned into various shapes and maintained in required sizes. Once,, the flexible, straight and light-weight trunks were used in the making of masts for sailing ships. Thus, the tree is also known as the Mast Tree. Today, its wood is mostly used for manufacturing small articles such as pencils, boxes, matchsticks, etc. The oil of the seed has been confirmed to possess anti-oxidant, anti-lipooxygenase and antimicrobial (against various microbe strains) activities, among others .Methanolic extracts of *Monoonlongifolium* have yielded 20 known and two new organic compounds, some of which show cytotoxic properties. The fatty acid composition of the seed has also been reported .