

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	ALSTONIA Alstonia scholaris
FAMILY	:-	Apocyanaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	
HINDI NAME	:-	Saptaparna, chhatwan



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

The species is found in the sub-Himalayan tract from Yamuna eastwards, ascending upto 1000 m. It occurs in tropical, subtropical, and moist deciduous forests in India, and is widely cultivated as avenue tree throughout India.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

It grows as an medium sized evergreen tree, usually 12-18 m high, sometimes upto 27 m height with close set canopy. Bark is rough, grayish-white, yellowish inside, and exudes bitter latex when injured. Leaves are four to seven in whorl, and are thick, oblong, with a blunt tip. They are dark green on the top and pale and covered with brownish pubescence on the dorsal surface.

PARTS USED:-

Stem bark, leaves, latex, and flowers

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

It is a bitter tonic, febrifuge, diuretic, anthelmintic, stimulant, carminative, stomachic, aphrodisiac, galactagogue, and haemostatic. It is used as a substitute for cinchona and quinine for the treatment of intermittent periodic fever. An infusion of bark is given in fever, dyspepsia, skin disease, liver complaints, chronic diarrhea, and dysentery.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

The bark contains the alkaloids ditamine, echitenine and echitamine and used to serve as an alternative to quinine.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Natural regeneration is often scarce; seedlings are found scattered in groups, particularly in open places at forest edges and in secondary forest. Regeneration can be enhanced by enrichment planting using the strip system, but sufficient opening of the canopy is essential for optimal growth of the seedlings. Seeds are difficult to collect, as the fruits open while still on the tree. The germination rate of fresh seeds is high, nearly 100%. *A. scholaris* has been grafted. Cleft grafting and inverted T-grafting have been found to be most appropriate.