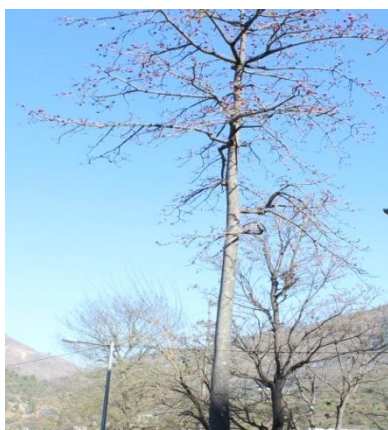




***Bombax ceiba* L.**

**Family:** Malvaceae

**Common names:** Red silk cotton, Shalmali, Semal.



**Description:**

*Bombax ceiba* is a lofty deciduous tree, up to 40 m in height, widely distributed throughout India, including the Andamans, up to 1,500 m or even higher. The leaves are palmate with about 6 leaflets radiating from a central point, an average of 7 -10 cm wide. Flowers are Cup-shaped, solitary or clustered, axillary or sub-terminal. The pods are about 10-18 cm in length, oblong-oval in shape and 5 valved. Valves are woody, lined with silky hairs. Within the capsule it has many seeds which are egg shaped, smooth, 6-9 mm long in size, and packed in white cotton.

**Utilization:**

People in ancient time used to make pillow with the cotton of this plant. Gum is used in the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery. It is cooling, astringent, stimulant, tonic, and help in relieving inflammation. Flowers are astringent and good for skin troubles and haemorrhoids (Pawan *et al.*, 2015). Seeds are useful in treating gonorrhoea and chronic cystitis. Wood is good for manufacture of plywood, matchboxes and sticks, scabbards, patterns, moulds, etc.

Part	Uses
Stem bark	Diabetes mellitus
Root powder	Debility
Young fruits	Urolithiasis (Kidney Stones)
Root, stem-bark and seeds	Hepatic disorders
Gum	diarrhoea, dysentery

**References:**

- Jain V & Verma S.K; (2014) Assessment of credibility of some folk medicinal claims on *Bombax ceiba* L. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge; Vol. 13 (1), pp. 87-94.
- Rajput P, Parashar S, Rao R.M and Sridurga C.H; (2015) Shalmali (*Bombax Malabaricum* DC.): Aphrodisiac drug of Ayurveda. Int J Ayu Pharm Chem 2015 Vol. 3 Issue 2 .