



***Carissa spinarum* L.**

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Common names:** Conker berry, karunda, Garnoo



**Description:**

*Carissa spinarum* is an erect thorny shrub, with bifurcated branches, 2-3 m in height. Leaves are ovate, 4.5 cm long, leathery having reticulate venation; leaves exuding a white latex, when plucked from the stem. Flowers are short-stalked, sweetly scented, their colour varying between white and camellia rose; inflorescence is terminal or a corymbose cyme. Fruit is an ovoid berry, 9 mm in length and are hyacinth blue in colour. Seeds have a broad base and taper to a point and 5 to 6 mm in length.

**Utilization:**

The small fruits of *Carissa* are commonly eaten by the people. The bushes of this wild plant are thorny and are very effective as a fence and are mainly used in the villages for this purpose. These bushes are very hard and drought-resistant and can grow even on very poor and rocky soils. Therefore they can be used for afforestation in soil conservation. The wood is used for making household articles.

Part	Uses
Root extract	Antimicrobial, Anthelmintic
Stem extract	Antiviral

**References:**

- Sanwal R, Chaudhary A.K; (2011) "Wound healing and antimicrobial potential of *Carissa spinarum* Linn. in albino mice." *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*. Volume 135, Issue 3, Pages 792–796
- Wangteeraprasert R, Lipipun V, Gunaratnam M, Neidle S, Gibbons S, and Likhitwitayawuid K; "Bioactive Compounds from *Carissa spinarum*." *Phytother. Res.*, 26: 1496–1499. doi: 10.1002/ptr.4607
- Harwansh R.K, Debapriya Garabadu, M.d, Rahman A, Garabadu P.S; (2010) "In vitro anthelmintic activity of different extracts of root of *carissa spinarum*." *IJPSR*, Vol. 1, Issue 10.