



Myrica esculenta Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don

Family: Myricaceae

Common names : Bayberry, Kaiphal, Kaphal



Description:

Myrica esculenta is a small or moderate sized tree, 3-15 m high, found at an altitude of 900-2,100 m. Bark is grey or brownish grey, rough with green vertical wrinkles, it is soft and brittle. leaves are lanceolate, oblong- obovate. Flowers are minute, unisexual in axillary spikes. Fruit is an ellipsoid or ovoid drupe of the size of a cherry. Seeds are triangular in shape.

Utilization:

The fruit of the plant is edible. It has a pleasant sweet taste. Fruits are also used in the preparation of refreshing drinks. The bark of the plant contains a yellow colouring matter rich in tannin; it has been used occasionally as a tanning and dyeing material. Decoction of bark is useful in asthma, diarrhoea, fevers, chronic bronchitis, dysentery and diuresis. Bark is chewed to relieve toothache.

Part used	Disease
Bark	Fever, cough and in the affections of the throat
Oil	Diarrhoea and paralysis

References:

Rawat J. M. S., Tomar Y.K and Rawat V; (2009) "EFFEECT OF PRETREATMENTS ON MYRICA ESCULENTA D. DON (KAPHAL) SEED GERMINATION AND SEEDLING PERFORMANCE." *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods* 19.2: 193-197.

Mikage M, Kondo N, and Suzuki, M; (1995) "Anatomical study of the bark of *Myrica esculenta* Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don (Myricaceae) and the botanical origin of Ayurvedic crude drug" kaphal bokra" and" katpala pothu." *J. Phytogeogr. Taxon* 43.1-2: 37-44.