



***Rhododendron arboreum* Sm.**

Family: Ericaceae

Common names: Burans, Lali Gurans, Barah



Description:

Rhododendron arboreum is found in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. *Rhododendron arboreum* is the national flower of Nepal. It is an evergreen shrub or small tree with a showy bright red flowers. Leaves are oblong- lanceolate, 10-20 cm long. Leaves are glossy green, with deeply impressed veins from above. Flowers are showy, red in dense globose cymes (Chauhan, 1999). Fruit Capsule is curved, central column composed of fine lobes, up to 3.8 cm long and 1.25 cm wide. Seeds are minute, dark brown, compressed, thin, linear having an obvolute membrane (Orwa *et al.*, 2009).

Utilization:

In hilly areas, the flowers of *Burans* with sweet & sour taste are used in the preparation of squash, jams, jellies and local brew. Fresh petals are used to prepare chutney known as *barah ki chutney*. The dried flowers are supposedly highly efficacious in checking diarrhoea and blood dysentery (Laloo *et al.*, 2006). It is offered in temples & religious places for ornamenting & decoration purposes. Wood is used to make tool handles, boxes and posts and is suitable for plywood. Young leaves can be processed into paste and applied on the forehead to alleviate headaches.

Part used	Disease
Dried flower	Diarrhoea, blood dysentery
leaves	Headache

References:

Chauhan N.S; (1999) Medicinal & aromatic plants of Himachal Pradesh. Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi 353.
Orwa C, Mutua A, Kindt R, Jamnadass R, Simons A; (2009) Agroforest tree Database: a tree reference and selection guide version 4.0.
Laloo R.C, Kharlukhi L, Jeeva S, Mishra B.P; (2006) Status of medicinal plants in the disturbed and the undisturbed sacred forests of Meghalaya, northeast India: population structure and regeneration efficacy of some important species. *Curr Sci.* 90(2): 225-232.