



***Zanthoxylum armatum* DC.**

**Family:** Rutaceae

**Common names:** Toothache tree, Tirmira



**Description:**

*Zanthoxylum armatum* is an armed, ascending or erect shrub or a small tree growing mostly on hill slopes or field borders goes up to 6 m. Bark pale brown and deeply furrowed. Sharp thorns present on the bark. Leaves are trifoliate. Flowers are greenish yellow in colour. Seeds are pungent and black in colour.

**Utilization:**

Small twigs of the plant are chewed and used as tooth stick for cleaning teeth. It is rated quite high for this purpose as it create a characteristic tingling sensation in the mouth and also activated the salivary glands. As the wood is very hard, so its branches are valued for making clubs to be used in stone grinding pots. The bark, fruits and seeds are extensively used in indigenous system of medicine. Tirmir shrub can be planted for being used as a hedge or border. Stem bark is used in cough, asthma, difficult breathing, and rheumatism ( Gilani *et. al.*, 2010).

Part	Uses
twigs	tooth stick for cleaning teeth
bark	Carminative, anthelmintic

**References:**

Gilani, S. N., Khan, A. U., & Gilani, A. H; (2010) Pharmacological basis for the medicinal use of *Zanthoxylum armatum* in gut, airways and cardiovascular disorders. *Phytotherapy Research*, 24(4), 553-558.  
Singh, T. P., & Singh, O. M; (2011) Phytochemical and pharmacological profile of *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC.-an overview.