

Santalum album



Common Name: Indian Sandalwood

Scientific Name: *Santalum album*

Family: Santalaceae

Indian sandalwood is a small tropical tree and the traditional source of sandalwood oil. It is native to Southern India and Southeast Asia.

The height of the evergreen tree is between 4 to 9 metres. The plant parasites the roots of other tree species, with a haustorium adaptation on its roots, but without major detriment to its hosts. The reddish or brown bark can be almost black and is smooth in young trees, becoming cracked with a red reveal. The leaves are thin, opposite and ovate to lanceolate in shape.

Economically Important Part: Leaves and bark

Economic Importance: The central part of the tree, the heartwood is the only part of the tree that is used for its fragrance. The oil has been used in the traditional Ayurvedic medicinal system as a diuretic and mild stimulant and for smoothing the skin. The leaves and bark were used by early Hawaiians to treat dandruff, lice, skin inflammation and sexually transmitted diseases.