



Plant Profile: *Terminalia arjuna* L.

(Arjuna)

Botanical Name

Terminalia arjuna

Common Name

Arjun Myrobalan

Classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
Subkingdom:	Tracheobionta
Division:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Subclass:	Rosidae
Order:	Myrtales
Family:	Combretaceae
Genus:	Terminalia
Species:	arjuna

Part used

Fruits, leaves and bark.

Medicinal Properties

Fruits: deobstruent and tonic; Bark: astringent, antidiarrhetic, antipyretic, cardiogenic, lithotriptic, styptic and tonic.

Medicinal Use

It cures ulcer, relieves from fatigue and allays thirst. Leaves: juice used in earache, externally used as a cover on sores and ulcers; Fruits: used as tonic. Bark: useful in fractures, ulcers, urethrorrhea, leucorrhoea, diabetes, cardiopathy, anaemia, cirrhosis of the liver and hypertension. According to Ayurved, it also very useful in sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhoea.

Phytochemistry

Arjunolic acid and its saponin, beta-sitosterol, ellagic acid. Fruits: arjunone and tannin; Leaves: Alicyclic and amino acids and polyols. Bark: arjunine, lactone, arjunetin, friedelin, arjunic acid, arjunglucosides I and II, large quantities of calcium salts and traces of aluminium and magnesium salts.

Regional Habitat

Throughout Rajasthan, common on the banks of rivers and streams. Also planted for shade or ornament in avenues or parks.

Description

Evergreen large tree, grows up to 20-25 meters in height. It sheds its skin in time to time. Bark is smooth and grey. Leaves: simple, subopposite, coriaceous, oblong or elliptic, hard, 10-20 cm long. Flowers: yellowish-white, borne in shortly paniced-spikes. Fruits: 2.5-5 cm long, obovoid-oblong, with 5-7 equal, hard, coriaceous, thick narrow wings. Flowers in March-June months and fruits in September-November.

Image

