



Schleicheria oleosa (Lour.) Oken

Family: Sapindaceae

Systematic position:

Plantae> Tracheophyta> Magnoliopsida>

Sapindales> Sapindaceae



Family Sapindaceae

Common name: Ceylon oak

Vernacular name: Poovam (പൂവം)

Description:

Schleichera oleosa is a large nearly evergreen tree with a short-fluted trunk and a shade spreading crown. The wood is very hard and reddish brown. This tree is noted for its growth of new leaves that are bright red around march.

The leaves are pinnate, with each leaf having 2-4 leaflets. The tree is a host to a lac insect which is native to India. Its seeds are the source of Kusum oil.

The flowers are tiny occurring in short dense yellow clusters.

The fruit is 2.5 to 3cm long, ovoid, 1-3 celled, and abruptly tapering to a point, dry indehiscent.

The seed is 1.5cm long, smooth, brown and enclosed in a succulent aril with an acidic taste

Seed: The seed is 1.5 cm long, smooth, brown, and enclosed in a succulent aril which has an acidic taste, and contains 25-38% oil and up to 22% protein. It is irregular or ellipsoidal in shape, slightly compressed, and has a thick brown seed coat on its surface.