The Plants of Western Ghats
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by
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Sample species page

Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub.

Plants of Western Ghats – Volume 1

Distribution

Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub.

Distribution in India (top) is based on data from Sussu Kowalski, and within Western Ghats (right) is based on
Sussu Achara (thematics); data points based on Western Ghats project.

Habitat: Dry deciduous to semi evergreen forests

Conservation status: Common

Taxonomy

Synonyms:
Erythrina monosperma Lam.
Platycarpus monosperma Lam.
Platycarpus eriocarpus (Spreng.) Menezes
Plantago monosperma Lam.
Karanj var. Sura Kari
Karanj neemvar DC.
Karanj f. annua Bhal.
B. afzelii var. sinensis Blume
B. afzelii var. nana Blume

Family: Fabaceae
Local names: Flame of the forest (Eng.), Magadala mata (Karn.), Palas (Him.), Chureswari (Mkt.), Huvadapadi (Karn.).

Characters: Decidious, unarmed tree up to 10 m.
Leaves: (compound) or broadly ovate, palmate or pinnate.
Flowers: showy, flame orange, 4 cm long. Pod distinctly angled, roundish at apex.

Flowering: January-May

Distribution: Throughout India (except Assam), Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar,
Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Dominican Republic, Mauritius, Australia, North America (Californian Island).
Uses: The essential oil of gum and seeds is used in local medicine. Leaves for making plaiting, caps for wrapping food.