



Medicinal Plants

White Gulmohar



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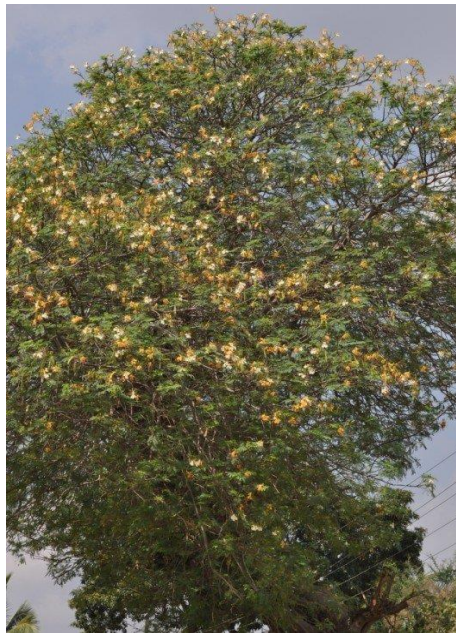
Botanical Name: *Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble Syn.

Poinciana elata L

Tamil Name : Vadhanarayanan

English Name : White Gul Mohur / Creamy Peacock flower

Family : Caesalpiniaceae



Habitat

It is an erect tree with a smooth ash-coloured bark growing up to 15 to 30 ft. in height. Leaflets are small, membraneous and bi-pinnately arranged in the form of pairs along the ribs. Flowers are white and in raceme, growing in clusters at the end of the branches during the month of August and September. Pods are 5 to 7 inches long containing 4 to 8 seeds. It grows fast and is easily raised from seeds even in poor dry soil or crevices of rocks.

Economic value

- Bark of the tree yields an unimportant gum.
- Leaves and twigs of the tree are used as manure.
- Wood of the tree is well suited for cabinet work.

Medicinal value

- The leaves are roasted in castor oil and applied externally to cure abscesses
- Decoction of the leaves with castor oil is consumed to cure diarrhea
- Hot decoction of the leaves is applied externally to reduce pain and inflammation of the joints.
- There is a popular belief that touching the root of this tree removes the pain due to a scorpion sting.



Environmental value

- It has been successfully used as a protection of the banks of rivers and to cause obstructions.
- Its bright orange flowers mark the beginning of the school year in India. They attract several birds and butterflies. The tree is a good carbon sequester too.
- It absorbs both the oxides of nitrogen as well as sulphur-di-oxide from the atmosphere

However, some animal species have their attraction to specific species of trees, which we have to support.

