

Monoon longifolium,

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Order	: Magnoliales
Family	: Annonaceae
Subfamily	: Malmeoideae
Genus	: <i>Monoon</i>
Species	: <i>M. longifolium</i>



M. longifolium

Description

Monoon longifolium, the **false ashoka** also commonly known by its synonym *Polyalthia longifolia*, is an Asian small tree species in the family Annonaceae. It is native to southern India and Sri Lanka, but has been widely introduced elsewhere in tropical Asia and Africa. This evergreen tree is known to grow over 10 m. in height and is commonly planted due to its effectiveness in alleviating noise pollution. It exhibits symmetrical pyramidal growth with willowy weeping pendulous branches and long narrow lanceolate leaves with undulate margins.

Monoon longifolium is sometimes incorrectly identified as the ashoka tree (*Saraca indica*) because of the close resemblance of both trees. It can appear to have no branches, but in fact a *M. longifolium* allowed to grow naturally (without trimming the branches out for decorative reasons) grows into a normal large tree giving plenty of shade.

Medicinal uses

The plant has been commonly used in traditional system of medicine for the treatment of fever, skin diseases, diabetes, hypertension and helminthiasis.

1. **Antibacterial:** leaves possess potent antimicrobials against *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Salmonella typhi*.
2. **Antioxidant:** stem bark, leaves exhibits antioxidant properties.

3. **Anti-inflammatory:** *the methanolic, and aqueous leaves extract of P. longifolia possess a significant anti-inflammatory activity.*

4. **Anticancer:** *The stem bark has antitumor activities.*

5. **Antihyperglycemic:** *It has glucose lowering activity.*

6. **Antibacterial and antifungal:** *The seeds have reported antibacterial, and antifungal activities.*

7. **Hepatoprotective / the liver protective effect:** *The leaves administration reduces SGOT, SGPT, ALP, and bilirubin.*