

MANIPUR

State Tree: Bonsum

Botanical Name: *Phoebe hainesiana* Brandis

Vernacular Names: Uningthou (Manipuri); Angare (Nepali).

Family: Lauraceae.

Etymology: The specific epithet is after the British forester, Henry Haselfoot Haines (1867 – 1945).



***Phoebe hainesiana* Brandis**

Description: A large tree, to 45 m tall; trunk to 6 m in diam.; bark thick, dark grey; wood yellow. Leaves clustered at branchlet ends, oblanceolate-ovate, blunt-mucronate at apex, 11 – 25 × 4.5 – 8 cm, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, pale beneath; lateral veins straight, 12 – 16 pairs. Flowers in panicle; peduncle stout, 7.5 – 10 cm long, elongated to 25 cm in fruiting. Perianth campanulate, densely greyish tomentose, woody, 6-lobed; lobes 5 – 13 mm long. Fruits broadly ellipsoid, ca 3 × 1.5 cm, fleshy, enclosed at base by perianth, black.

Flowering & Fruiting: May – September.

Range of Distribution: India, Bhutan and Malaysia.

Economic Importance: Tree yields an economically valuable timber, used in making boxes and crates, building materials, furniture, wardrobes, structural and decorative plywood, interior construction, packing cases and planks.

Traditional Knowledge: Timber is considered as king of timber in Manipur (Uningthou = Timber King). The Mizo tribe has been protecting and conserving it under the initiatives of indigenous community institution (Young Mizo Association).

Medicinal Uses: Not known.

Note: It prefers to grow in low-elevated areas. Due to overexploitation it is locally endangered.

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