

## MEGHALAYA

**State Tree:** Dieng-lophiang

**Botanical Name:** *Gmelina arborea* Roxb.

**Common Names:** Gomari (Assamese); Gamhar (Hindi); Shivani (Kannada); Dieng-lophiang (Khasi); Sirni (Konkani); Kumbil (Malayalam); Wang (Manipuri); Sivan (Marathi); Madhumati (Sanskrit); Kumala Maram (Tamil); Peddagumudutekku (Telugu).

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Etymology:** The specific epithet, *arborea* is derived from the term 'arboretum', which means wood.



*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.

Photo Courtesy: Dr. Ramesh Kumar

**Description:** A deciduous tree, ca 15 m tall; branchlets quadrangular, nearly pubescent. Leaves broadly ovate-acuminate, 7.5 – 20 × 6.5 – 15.2 cm, subcoriaceous, glabrescent above, fairly tomentose or almost glaucous beneath. Inflorescence a terminal, paniced cyme, up to 30.5 cm long, tomentose. Flowers ca 2.5 cm across; bracts linear-lanceolate. Calyx cupular or funnel-shaped, ca 5 mm long, pubescent, persistent, 5-toothed. Corolla lobes with crenulate margins, pubescent, brownish yellow. Stamens 4, didynamous. Ovary 4-loculed; ovule 1 per locule; style slender; stigma unequally bifid. Drupes ovoid or pyriform, ca 2.5 cm long, succulent with aromatic pulp, glossy and yellow when ripe, 1 – 3-seeded; seeds

lenticular, exalbuminous; cotyledons fleshy.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** February – April and May – June.

**Range of Distribution:** India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

**Economic Importance:** It is used in constructions, furniture, carriages, sports, musical instruments and artificial limbs. It is also a popular timber for picture and slate frames and various types of brush backs, brush handles, toys, and also for handles of chisels, files, saws, screw drivers and sickles. The wood is also used for manufacturing tea chests and general purpose plywood, blackboards, frame core and cross bands of flush door shutters. In the instrument industry it is widely employed for the manufacture of drawing boards, plane tables, instrument boxes, thermometer scales and cheaper grade metric scales. It is used in papermaking and matchwood industry too. The leaves are considered good for cattle (crude protein – 11.9%) and are also used as a feed to Eri-silkworm.

**Traditional Knowledge:** The wood is used for furniture, drum and internal articles.

**Medicinal Uses:** The root and bark are claimed to have stomachic, galactagogue, laxative and anthelmintic properties. They improve appetite, and useful in treating hallucination, piles, abdominal pains, blood purification, bone fracture, cholera, colic, cough, epilepsy, malaria, chicken pox, snake bite, throat swell, burning sensation, fever and urinary discharge. Leaf paste is applied to relieve headache and juice is used as wash for ulcers. Flowers are sweet, cooling, bitter and astringent and are useful in leprosy and blood diseases. The root, bark and fruit are used in Ayurvedic system of medicine.

**Note:** It is a fast growing tree, prefers moist fertile valleys with 750 – 4500 mm annual rainfall. This tree is commonly planted as an avenue tree, and also in gardens. It is light demander, tolerant of excessive drought, but moderately frost hardy. It has good capacity to recover from frost injury.

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