

Botanic name : *Cassia sophera* L. Sp. Pl. 1: 379. 1753 [1 May 1753] (IK)

Common name : Kasamarda (Sanskrit), Kalkasunda (Bengali),

Family : Fabaceae (Leguminosae-Caesalpinoideae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to America; now pan tropics often in invasive form, Himalayas up to an altitude of 750 m, msl.

Description : Diffuse undershrub; leaves pinnately compound with 10-12 pairs of leaflets, linear-lanceolate, acute at apex; flowers yellow, arranged in corymbose racemose manner, stamens 10, heterodynamous with four staminodes (3 at posterior side and one at anterior), placentation marginal; fruit pod or legumes, thick, slightly recurved

Phytochemicals: Anthraquinones, β -sitosterol, chrysophanol and physcion (root bark), chrysophanol physicon, sopheranin, quercetin, chrysophanic acid, emodin, and β -sitosterol (stem heart wood), flavanol-C-glycoside and sennoside (leaves), anthraquinone and flavanol glycosides, including campesterol, chrysophanol, rhamnnetin glucoside, sitosterol, fucosterol (flower)

Medicinal/Economic uses : Used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy, Folk, Veterinary, Chinese system of medicines; antidiabetic (bark infusion or seed powder mixed with honey), analgesic, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic, febrifuge, anticonvulsant, athartic (bark, stem, leaves), expectorant (whole plant decoction), insect repellent in ear, spasmolytic ; in treating diminishing urine; effective against asthma, ascaris, cough, allergic rhinitis, gonorrhoea (infusion of fresh leaves), pain in knee joint, constipation, rheumatic troubles and worm infestation. In tradition, the whole plant decoction is used to impart relief in acute bronchitis. Leaf juice mixed with sandal/lime juice wood is specifically effective for ringworm; also used in asthma, jaundice, bronchitis and hiccup, leaf infusion used in gonorrhoea and syphilitic sores. Bruised leaves and root bark, powdered and mixed with honey, applied externally to ringworm and ulcers. Root bark ground into a paste is applied for snake bites (mixed with black pepper), pityriasis and psoriasis. In NE Bangladesh, root paste along with black pepper is employed by tribals to cure jaundice and bronchitis