

Botanic name : *Cephalotaxus mannii* Hook.f. -- Hooker's Icon. Pl. 16: t. 1523. 1886

Common name : Mann's Yew Plum

Family : Cephalotaxaceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to NE Indian Himalayas, China, northern Myanmar, Laos, SE Asia up to Vietnam; characterized as vulnerable (India), endangered (China), threatened (Vietnam) by IUCN Red List/World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Description : Evergreen tree up to 20 meters tall; Bark light brown to reddish brown, flaking off; twigs elliptic or oblong-elliptic in outline; blade dark green or shining olive green adaxially, linear or linear-lanceolate, usually straight, occasionally slightly falcate, flat; leathery or relatively thin, midvein prominent adaxially, 0.2-0.3 mm wide abaxially, stomatal bands white or bluish white, often indistinct and green when dry because of white powder being shed, marginal bands 0.1-0.3 mm wide, base very broadly obtuse or obtusely truncate, symmetric or not, margin narrowly revolute, apex cuspidate (with leaf tapered into apex from at least middle, often from base), or abruptly and very shortly mucronate (with leaf parallel-sided and mucro 0.1-0.2 mm). Pollen cones borne 6-8 together, pale yellow, globose, 4-4.5 mm in diam.; peduncle (1-)4-5 mm, usually with at least 10 bracts; microsporophylls 7-13, each with 3 or 4 pollen sacs. Seed cones solitary or borne 2 or 3 together; peduncle 6-10 mm; fruit aril green initially, turning red when ripe

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids (Cephalotaxine, Cephalomannine-anti tumor), diterpenoids, terpenoids (abietanes, troponoids), lignans, homoharringtonine, flavonoids, volatile oil

Medicinal/Economic uses : Antiparasitic agent, antiviral, cancer, antioxidant, osteoblast differentiation, Homoharringtonine is active against some orphan leukaemia and is nowadays approaching marketability. Used for quality furniture, fine crafts and tool handles; seeds and bark have medicinal uses in the treatment of leukaemia and lymphoma. The species is eminently suitable for use in horticulture; traditionally, timber is straight-grained with fine structure and high elasticity, rather hard, easy to work, not splitting and deforming after seasoning, and resistant to termites and insects, used for high quality furniture, tool handles and fine art articles. Oil from the seeds is used in painting; the seed is also used in medicine (antitumor).