

Botanic name : *Casuarina equisetifolia* L.

Common name: Whistling pine, Common Ru, Australian Pine Tree, She Oak, Shingle Oak, Coastal She Oak

Family: Casuarinaceae.

Habitat: Terrestrial.

Distribution : Native to India and found from Burma, Vietnam throughout Malesia east to French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and south into Australia (the northern parts of Northern Territory, north and east Queensland, and northeastern New South Wales, where it extends as far south as Laurieton

Description: An evergreen tree (100-150 ft) bearing minute scale-leaves in whorls of 6–8 and having a conifer like appearance. Leaves resemble to a horse's tail and hence *equisetifolia*. Trunk stout, covered with thick pebbly textured brownish grey bark. The flowers are produced in small catkin like inflorescences; the male flowers in simple spikes; the female flowers on short peduncle. The fruit is an oval woody structure, long, superficially resembling a conifer cone made up of numerous carpels each containing a single seed

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, flavonoids, lupeol, plemols, ellagic acids, gallic acid

Medicinal/Economic use : The bark, used for tanning. Used as an astringent, anthelmintic, anticancer, antibacterial, diuretic, ecboic, emmenagogue, laxative, and tonic, beri-beri, colic, cough, diarrhea, dysentery, headache, nerves, pimples, sores, sorethroat, stomachache, swellings, and toothache. Root extracts are used for the treatment of dysentery, diarrhoea and stomach-ache while twig decoction is useful in treating swellings. Seeds are used for passing blood in diarrhea. Powdered bark is used for treating pimples on the face. Bark contains 6 - 18% tannin, thus used for preserving ropes etc, and also contains a red pigment, so can be used as a dye. Used as cheap fuel and is a source of high quality charcoal. Often planted in sea-shore as a powerful wind breaker and helpful in reducing wind velocity during tropical storms