



DOCUMENTATION OF BUTEA MONOSPERMA (LAM) TAUB. SYN B. FRONDOSA KOENIG EX. ROXB.VAR. LUTEA (WITT) MAHESHW. GOLDEN BUTEA AT PUNE

Rajendra Patil¹ and Minakshi Mahajan²

1. Amolakchand Mahavidyalaya, Yawatmal

2. Fergusson College, Pune

Corresponding author email- minakshi7mahajan@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

Two varieties of *Butea monosperma* namely var. *monosperma* and *lutea*. In variety *lutea* flowers are golden in colour and flower buds are ivory-white colour. *Butea monosperma* var *lutea*(Witt) Maheshw. is included in IUCN Red list of Threatened species. It is commonly known as Flame of the forest. Two trees of Golden butea is reported in flowering and fruiting stage for the first time on Bombay Pune highway, Pune in January 2018. It was reported by Shrikant Ingalhalikar. The news was published in Sakal newspaper dated 28th January 2018. The paper deals with the distribution, status in red data list, medicinal and economic uses, its description and their cultivation and photographs are provided for reference and identification.

Keywords: *Butea monosperma* var *lutea*, endemic, rare, Pune

INTRODUCTION:

Distribution- central India and Orissa, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Specimen observed- Two trees of *Butea monosperma* var *lutea*(Witt) Maheshw growing on Bombay Pune highway. The photographs were taken. It has been observed that only one tree was in flowering. One tree was reported 35 years ago in Pune. In road construction, that tree disappeared. After 35 years, it is now reported.

Butea monosperma var *lutea* (Witt) Maheshw is included in IUCN Red list of Threatened species. It has been declared by Conservation Assessment Management Planning Workshop for Medicinal Plants of Andhra Pradesh, as a rare and endangered medicinal variety. (Jadhav et al. 2001). It is commonly known as Flame of the forest. It was reported from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh ((Naqvi, 2001; Reddy et al. 2001).

This plant belongs to family fabaceae due to papillaceous corolla. A tree is deciduous with a somewhat crooked trunk grow up to 15m in height

and 1.6- 2.0m sometimes up to 3.8m in girth. It commonly grows in India. Leaves are compound, imparipinnate, with long petiole, broadly obovate, leaf surface is glabrous on upper side and finely silk below. Buds are ivory-white colour, inflorescence is racemes, measure about 15cm long, flowers are golden in colour, Pods pendulous, silky tomentose, 10cm long containing one seed at its apex, seeds uniform, 3.3-3.8 cm X 2.2-2.5cm

As a tree is deciduous, leaves fall during Nov to December and by the month of January the tree is leafless or nearly so. New foliage appears in April to May.

Flowering – From January to February

Fruiting- October to January

METHOD AND MATERIAL:

The medicinal uses of plants refer to presence of alkaloids and glycosides. Bark, leaves, flowers, seeds and roots are medicinally important. Leaves contain alkaloids. They have tonic, diuretic, astringent and aphrodisiac properties.

Flowers also have tonic, diuretic, astringent, depurcative and aphrodisiac properties. They have antifungal, anti-esterogenic, anti-inflammatory

activity. A dye is obtained from sap of dried flowers. The decoction of the dye serve as a bio control agent, control the population of white ants in the field

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Flowers contain glycosides like butein, butrin, isobutrin, isocoreopsin etc. The fluorescent color of the flower is due to chalcones and aurones.

The fresh seeds are the great source of lipolytic and proteolytic enzymes.

Butea is economically important. It acts as a host for lac insects and produce shellac. It is a great source of earning for farmers. By using lac, jewelry and miniature crafts are made. Lac is used in pharmaceutical industries. Farmers' sale lac as a raw material. (plants (Kaveriappa and Shetty, 2001).

Leaves are used for platters, cups, native umbrellas and for wrapping.

Butea monosperma var *lutea*(Witt) Maheshw support biodiversity. The flurescent colour of flowers attracts sunbirds, rose-ringed parakeets and butterflies. Butterflies like common emigrant, Gram blue, pea blue and common cerulean. (Subramanya and Radhamani (1993), Tandon et al. (2003).

As its status is rare and endangered, more emphasis should be given on its conservation part. It can be naturally propagated by seeds and suckers. Artificial regeneration can be done by germinating seeds in nursery. These seedlings can be transplanted in the field.

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Flowers of *Butea Monosperma* Var. *Lutea* (Witt) Maheshw



Two trees of *Butea monosperma* var. *lutea* (Witt) Maheshw one in flowering and other one in with green foliage