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Aeschynomene indica

[Synonyms : *Aeschynomene cachemiriana*, *Aeschynomene diffusa*, *Aeschynomene glaberrima*, *Aeschynomene indica* var. *punctata*, *Aeschynomene indica* var. *viscosa*, *Aeschynomene macropoda*, *Aeschynomene montana*, *Aeschynomene oliganth*, *Aeschynomene pumila*, *Aeschynomene punctata*, *Aeschynomene quadrata*, *Aeschynomene roxburghii*, *Aeschynomene subviscosa*, *Hedysarum alpinum*, *Hedysarum neli-tali*, *Hedysarum virginicum*]

KAT SOLA is an aquatic shrub. Native to India (although some Indian authorities suggest that this species may have been introduced from tropical America) it has red-lined, pale yellow flowers.

It is also known as Indian pith tree, Kuhilia, Pith plant, Shola, and Sola.

Indica means ‘of or from India or the East Indies or the Far East’.

Fibre from Kat sola has not only been used for the manufacture of sola-topis but its lightweight wood has also provided floats for fishing nets, and has been made into fishing rafts and baskets – as well as pedestrian supports for fording small rivers, and elephant harness padding (known as *gadis*).

The wood yields charcoal which has been used for gunpowder and fireworks, and has provided fuel for firing pottery.

The shrub has been considered for use as a green manure.