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Cordia sebestena

[Synonyms : *Cordia speciosa*, *Sebestena sebestena*]

GEIGER TREE is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to tropical America (particularly the West Indies and Florida in the United States) it has scarlet or orange-red flowers.

It is also known as *Aechinaruvihli* (Tamil), Aloë tree, Aloë wood, Anaconda, Bird lime tree, *Bois de rose* (French), *Carawara español* (Dutch), *Challekendala* (Kannada), *Cordia*, *Cuba sebesten*, Geigertree cordia, Geranium tree, Largeleaf geigertree, *Lolu* (Singhalese), *Scarlet cordia*, *Sebesten tree*, *Sébestier* (French), *Spanish cordia*, *Virigi* (Telugu), and *Vomitel* (Spanish).

Sebestena is derived from Persian *sapistan* (the name of a fruit of an allied species).

The fruit are eaten locally.

The sometimes-pale streaked, dark coloured wood is used for turning and is also fashioned into small objects.

Medicinally, locally the fruit have been used to treat fever, and the leaves have provided a remedy for bronchitis and stomach ailments.