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Pterocarpus marsupium

[Synonyms : *Lingoum marsupium*, *Pterocarpus bilobus*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* var. *acuminata*]

KINO (English, German, Malayalam) is a deciduous tree. Native to India it has scented pale yellow or white flowers.

It is also known as Bastard teak, *Bibla* (Gujarati), *Bijasal* (Hindi), *Damul akhwain* (Urdu), Dragon's blood, East Indian kino, *Gammalu* (Singhalese), Gum-kino tree, *Honi* (Marathi), *Honne* (Kannada), Indian kino, *Karintakara* (Malayalam), Kinos, Malabar kino, *Pitasara* (Sanskrit), *Pitsal* (Bengali), *Vengai* (Tamil), and *Vengisa* (Telugu).

A red gum known as Kino is extracted from the bark.

Marsupium is derived from Latin *marsuppium* (pouch, purse).

The gum is used in the production of some wines.

This very hard, durable yellowish-brown wood takes a fine polish and has been much sought after. Apart from furniture, agricultural implements and boat building, it has also been used for making railway sleepers and railway rolling stock. The wood has been burnt as fuel too.

A solution made from the bark is used in northern India to cure dysentery in animals).

Medicinally, the powdered dried gum (or kino) has long been turned to for treatment for diabetics and the dried leaves are used to treat skin diseases and diarrhoea, dysentery, sore throats and leucorrhoea. In India it is also used in medicine – in particular an extract from the heartwood that is used in remedies for asthma.