

Putranjiva roxburghii Wall.

Common name: Wild Olive

Sanskrit Names: Aksaphala, Kumarbeeja, Putrajivah

Malayalam Names: Ekkoli, Erenji, Poothilanji, Ponkalam, Puthrajeevi

Tamil Names: Karupala, Paru palaa, Sannimaram, Kattuppachaeri maram

Hindi Name: Puthrajeevak

Description:

Trees, to 20 m high; branches generally pendent, slender, pubescent. Leaves simple, alternate, 5-12 x 1.5-4.5 cm, elliptic-oblong, base oblique, apex shortly acuminate, acute or obtuse with retuse tip; margin serrate or serrulate. Flowers unisexual, small, yellow; male flowers: sessile, in axillary spikes, 2-2.5 mm across; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long, glabrous; tepals 3-5, oblong, puberulous without, ciliate, obtuse, imbricate; stamens 2-4; filaments thick, more or less connate towards base. Female flowers: solitary or in 2 or 3, axillary; pedicel up to 15 mm long, puberulous; tepals 5-6, 2-2.5 x 1-1.5 mm, unequal, oblong; ovary superior, 3-celled, ovules 2 in each cell. Fruit a drupe, 1.3-2 x 1.5 cm, ovoid-ellipsoid, white tomentose; seed one.

Distribution: Native to Tropical Asia

Medicinal uses: *Putranjiva roxburghii* has been historically ascribed an important role in the traditional Ayurvedic and Unani systems of holistic health and herbal medicine of the East. The leaves are reported to have good medicinal values in these traditional systems of medicine. The name of this plant has been wrongly interpreted as a medicine for obtaining male child. There is no mention of such property or action responsible to or associated with *Putranjiva* in the Ayurveda or any other ancient traditional medicine text. However, these texts prescribe its usage in female patients to increase the strength of their female genital systems and also for curing of diseases like leukorrhea, infertility, menstrual problems, etc. The use of *Putrajeevak* has been associated with many beliefs and practices. The fruits are worn in the form of a necklace by pregnant women to prevent miscarriage. The seeds strung together to form rosaries and used as a necklace to protect children from diseases and by

persons suffering from acute cough and cold, while its dried fruits are used in a garland to cure skin allergy and itching

The plant is reported to possess anti-hyperglycemic activity. It is also reported that Biodiesel from Putranjiva oil, blended or pure, has exposed very acceptable results as an alternate fuel for diesel engines.



