

Kachnar

- **Botanical Name:** *Bauhinia variegata*
- **Family:** Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
- **Synonyms:** Kovidara, Yugmapatraka, Karbudara, Svalpakesari
- **Vernacular Name:** Commonly known as "Kachnar" in Hindi, "Mountain Ebony" in English, and "Mandarai" in Tamil.
- **Classification:** A deciduous tree belonging to the Fabaceae family.
- **Habitat:** Native to India and Southeast Asia. It is found in tropical and subtropical regions, thriving in well-drained soils and hilly terrains.
- **Morphology:** A medium-sized tree, growing up to 10–12 meters tall. It has bi-lobed leaves resembling a camel's hoof, fragrant pink or white flowers with five petals, and long, flat seed pods. The bark is smooth and greyish-brown.
- **Useful Parts:** Bark, flowers, buds, and leaves.
- **Chemical Composition:** Contains flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and phenolic compounds. The bark is rich in beta-sitosterol and stigmasterol.
- **Pharmacological Action:** Known for its anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, astringent, and thyroid-regulating properties. It is used in treating lymphadenitis, skin diseases, and bleeding disorders.
- **Formulation:** Used in Ayurvedic preparations like Kachnar Guggulu, Kachnar Kwath, and herbal decoctions for thyroid and lymphatic health.

Rasa: Kasaya

Guna: Laghu, Ruksha

Virya: Sheeta

Vipaka: Katu