

Karanja

- **Botanical Name:** *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre
- **Family:** Fabaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Millettia pinnata*, *Pongamia glabra*, Naktamala
- **Vernacular Name:** Commonly known as "Karanja" in Hindi, "Indian Beech" in English, and "Pungu" in Telugu.
- **Classification:** A medium-sized deciduous tree belonging to the Fabaceae family.
- **Habitat:** Native to tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, including India. It thrives in arid and semi-arid regions, often found along riverbanks and coastal areas.
- **Morphology:** A tree that grows up to 12–15 meters in height. It has a crooked trunk with greyish-brown bark, pinnate leaves, and fragrant flowers that are lavender, pink, or white. The fruits are flat, woody pods containing seeds.
- **Useful Parts:** Seeds, bark, leaves, and roots.
- **Chemical Composition:** Contains flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, and fatty acids. The seeds are rich in pongamol and karanjin, which have medicinal properties.
- **Pharmacological Action:** Known for its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anthelmintic, and wound-healing properties. It is used in treating skin disorders, ulcers, and joint pain. The oil extracted from seeds is used as a natural pesticide and in skincare.
- **Formulation:** Used in Ayurvedic preparations like Karanja Taila and herbal remedies for skin diseases and joint health.

Rasa: Katu , Tikta , Kashya

Guna: Laghu , Tikshan

Virya: Ushna

Vipaka: Katu