

# **IDENTIFICATION OF THE ECONOMIC USAGE OF SELECTED TREE PLANTS**

## **STUDY IN RATNAPURA DISTRICT**

Prof Mahinda Wijeratne,  
Prof Rohana P Mahaliyanaarachchi  
Dr L H P Gunratne

# ~~ANKENDA~~ (~~ACRONYCHIA PEDUNCULATA~~)

Distribution:

Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China (South),  
India (Andamans, South-West & North-East),  
Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia (Malay Peninsula),  
Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

*Acronychia pedunculata* or *Jambolifera pedunculata* are Shrubs or small to large trees, to 28 m tall.

# ATTIKKA (*FICUS RACEMOSA*)

Distribution:

Australasia, South-East Asia and the Indian Subcontinent.

It is unusual in that its figs grow on or close to the tree trunk. In Vietnam, it is called *sung*. In Sri Lanka the native name Attikka.

# BAK MEE (*NAUCLEA ZEYLANICA*) OR (*NAUCLEA ORIENTALIS*)

Bak Mee (*Nauclea zeylanica*) or (*Nauclea orientalis*) is Sri Lanka.

It is native tree used as an aurvedic medicinal plant.

# RESEARCH METHOD

- Both primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data were collected from the areas where these tree plants grow. Balangoda, Belihul Oya and Ratnapura areas were selected to collect data.

The following methods were used in collecting necessary data.

- Primary data
  - Observations
  - Discussions with elders in the area who have traditional knowhow about the usage of these plants.
  - Photographing
- Secondary data
  - Books
  - World Wide Web
- Senior researcher and two research assistants were involved in collecting primary data.

# RESULTS



**Ankenda**

# ANKENDA

## Usage:

- The wood, roots, bark and leaves are used medicinally to treat rheumatism, scabies and colic, and as a pain reliever.
- The roots are used as fish poison.
- The wood is sometimes used for construction and for making charcoal.
- Young leaves are eaten as a condiment. In additionally leaves are used to produce perfumes.
- Bark is used to synthesis certain kind of oils and gum.
- These leaves and bark used to prevent the fermentation of toddy.
- Some parts of this tree are used as the ingredients to produce the drugs for **“Cancers and Ulcers”**
- Decoction of roots, bark and leaves is used to treat scabies, sores, ulcers, and a variety of stomach diseases.
- Crushed leaves and fruits with citrus smell. Fragrant oil from stem and leaves used in cosmetic perfumery.





**Attikka**

# ATTIKKA

## Usage

- The edible *Ficus racemosa* fruits can consume as a curry.
- This has some medicinal values of wound healing and formulation of callus in fractures.
- The decoction of bark skin is extremely useful in diarrhea, dysentery and ulcerative colitis.
- In diabetes, the ripe fruits or bark-skin decoction is beneficial, as it works well as anti-diuretic.
- The latex mixed with sugar is benevolent in sexual debility in males.



**Bak Mee**

# **BUK MEE**

## **Usage**

- The bark has some medicinal properties for some illness. (Diarrhea, Urine infections and Rabies)
- Use for following illness such as Vulnerary, Toothache, Tumors, Anti diarrhoeics, Boils, Antipyretics

# CONCLUSIONS

- Ankenda (*Acronychia pedunculata*), Attikka (*Ficus racemosa*) and Buk Mee (*Nauclea zeylanica*) are mainly used for medicinal purposes.
- Fruits of Attikka are used as a cooking vegetable. Also use as a medicinal plant.
- Buk Mee (*Nauclea zeylanica*) is a native tree and mainly used as a medicinal plant.