

Polyalthia longifolia Thw.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Magnoliales

Family: Annonaceae

Genus: *Polyalthia*

Species: *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.)
Thwaites



Popular names: Asoka, Debdari, Asopalav, Nara maamidi, Nettiingam, Assothi, Hessare, Ubbina, Arana, Chorana

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: September to November

Fruiting time: November to January

Plant distribution: It is native of India and Sri Lanka.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light:** It grows well in full sun to part shade.
- 2. Moisture:** It has moderate water requirements.
- 3. Propagation:** From soft wood cuttings and seeds.

Economic importance:

- 1.** Wood is used for barrels, drums and boxes and for scaffoldings and carriage shafts; suitable for packing-cases, pencils and matches.

2. Tall straight trunks were used for masts.
3. Fruit is eaten in times of scarcity.
4. Bark is febrifuge.
5. It is commonly planted because it is effective in alleviating noise pollution.

Plant description: It is an evergreen tree reaching to a height of 30 feet.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, cylindrical, branched; bark light brown.

Leaf- Simple, alternate, green, glaucous, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, long narrow lanceolate leaves, 15-17 cm long, 3-4 cm wide, acuminate apex, entire and wavy margins, petiolate, petiole small, green, prominent midrib and veins, unicostate reticulate venation.

Inflorescence- Cymose.

Flower- Green, small, complete, regular, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, hypogynous; **Sepals-** 3, green, polysepalous, small, curved ends, inferior, valvate aestivation; **Petals-** 6, in two whorls of three each, green, polypetalous, lanceolate, inferior, valvate aestivation; **Stamens-** many, inserted around gynoecium, inferior, filaments very minute, anthers light green, basifixed, bilobed, longitudinal dehiscence; **Carpel-** 1, ovary superior, green, style minute, green, stigma simple; **Fruit-** Rounded, green when immature and brown when mature, glaucous, stalked, 1.5-2 cm long.

Seed- Brown, rough, 1-1.5 cm long.



Closer view



Bark



Alternate leaves



Adaxial surface of leaf



Abaxial surface of leaf



Glaucous surface



Acuminate apex



Entire and wavy margins



Petiole



Inflorescence



Flowers



Pedicel



Bract



Calyx



Corolla



And. & gyn.



Anthers



Gynoecium

Flora of KCH