

Strychnos potatorum (Katakal)



Botanical Name	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> (L.f.) DC (STRYCHNACEAE)
Vernacular Name	Padal, Patala, Padare
Description	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> is a medium-sized, glabrous tree of height 12-13 m. Stem is fluted and covered with black, thick, square to rectangular scales. Bark is 1.32 cm thick, black or brownish-black. Leaves are about 57.5 cm long, nearly sessile, subcoriaceous, ovate or elliptic, acute, glabrous and shining, spuriously three or five nerved. Fruit is a berry, black when ripe, globose, 12 cm in diameter, whitish, shining, with short addressed yellow silky hairs. Seeds are globose in shape. Population of nirmali is depleting fast due to self nongenerative mechanism in fruits. They are often decayed and are prone to fungal attack as soon as they fall. Flowering occurs in September-October, while fruiting occurs in December.
Regional Distribution	Gajapati, Ganjam, Bargarh, Puri, Sambalpur, Khordha, Kalahandi, Kendrapada.
Global Distribution	Indo-Chinese region.
Elevation Range (m)	< 900 m
Part Used	Seed
Action &Uses	Treatment of gonorrhoea, leukorrhoea leucorrhoea, gastropathy, bronchitis, chronic diarrhoea, dysentery, renal and vesicle calculi, diabetes, conjunctivitis, scleritis, ulcers and other eye disease.
Folk Use	Rheumatoid arthritis, gonorrhoea

Threats	Lf, Tp.
INCU Threat Status (Odisha)	A2cd VU
Status in Other State	Vulnerable (VU)