

## *Pterospermum acerifolium*

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### Scientific Classification

<i>Kingdom:</i>	<i>Plantae</i>
<i>Order:</i>	<i>Malvales</i>
<i>Family:</i>	<i>Malvaceae</i>
<i>Genus:</i>	<i>Pterospermum</i>
<i>Species:</i>	<i>P. Acerifolium</i>



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### Plant profile

*Pterospermum* or Kanak Champa is a genus of tropical trees and shrubs belonging to the family Sterculiaceae. Some species are grown ornamentally while others are valued for their timber. Kanak Champa is a tree of Indian origin, which reaches a height of 50-70 ft. Leaves are simple, alternate, have stipules and are palmately ribbed. It has large fragrant nocturnal white flowers, occurring in axillary fascicles. Fruit is a capsule, angled and furfuraceous.

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### Ecology

Sub canopy trees in evergreen forests up to 1000 m.

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### Uses

The common names for *Pterospermum acerifolium* is the Dinner Plate Tree. The utilization of the leaves is exactly what the name depicts. Mature leaves are very large, reaching a length and width of up to thirty five centimeters. They can be used as actual dinner plates or as packaging and storage by wrapping materials inside. The leaves can also serve as a primitive method of re-enforcing roofs and preventing leaks. The pubescent under surface of the leaves is said to stop bleeding and can be used as tinder for a means of sparking fires. The flowers of the Bayur tree can serve as a pleasant perfume and can even keep away insects. The flowers also provide a number of medicinal uses. An effective tonic can be prepared, as well as being used as a cure for inflammation, ulcers, blood problems, and even tumors. The reddish wood of the Bayur Tree can be used for planking. Because the wood is soft, it is not considered to be very strong. However it is incredibly durable and somewhat flexible, making it perfect for planking and wooden boxes. The Bayur Tree even serves a cultural function. Local Hindu people employ the plant for religious purposes. its bark is also supposed to be used in case of scabies topical preparation in lipstics.