

GNETACEAE

Gnetum montanum Markgr.

Vernacular names : Ass.: Mamelet; Kh.: Mai-lar-iong-une; Lus. & Mizo.: Thaulping-rhui; Or.: Lolori; Mal.: Ula; Mar.: Umlli.

Distribution : INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Sikkim, Orissa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Peninsular India; CHINA; NEPAL; THAILAND and VIETNAM.

Habitat : At altitudes ranging from 300-1800 m.



Population status / Cause for RET : Vulnerable.

Description : Evergreen, shrubby, dioecious climbers up to 10 m; branches smooth, swollen at nodes. Leaves opposite, simple, oblong-ovate, 12-30 cm long, dark green. Male inflorescence branched twice, fertile portion of the spike ca 3 cm long; flowers up to 20; perianth ca 1 mm long, sporophyll ca 1 mm long, sporangia 2. Imperfect female flowers ca 1 mm long, ovoid, integument cleft with apex. Female inflorescence branched twice or thrice; bracts ca 4 × 1 mm; female flowers 5-7 in each bract; perianth ca 3 × 2 mm, inner integument projecting into a tube with toothed mouth. Fruits ellipsoid, ca 1.5 × 1 cm, smooth, short stalked, epicarp fleshy, red; mesocarp woody; endocarp chartaceous. Seeds oblong, 2.5-3.7 cm long, orange.

Fl. & Fr.: May - December.

Parts used commercially : Stem and roots are antiperiodic. Seeds produce oil for massage for rheumatism. Plant is also used as fish poison.

Legal : Listed by Nepal in Appendix III of CITES. Included in Negative List of Exports.