

## PODOCARPACEAE

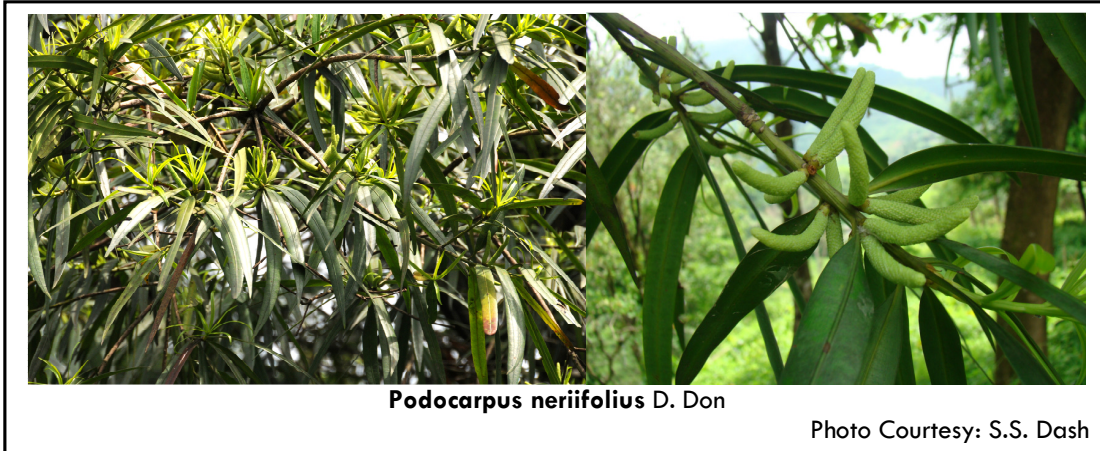
### **Podocarpus neriifolius** D. Don

*Vernacular names* : Andamans: Thitumi wehinada; *Asm.*: Kat bhaluka; *Cachar*: Jinari; *Hindi*: Halis; *Kh.*: Dieng-sia-blei; *Lep.*: Dung Kung; *Lus.*: Kherawaltak, Thlangpar; *Nep.*: Gunsu.

*Distribution* : INDIA: E Himalayas - Sikkim, hills of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Andamans; SW CHINA; BHUTAN; MYANMAR and MALAY Peninsula.

*Habitat* : Grows in evergreen forests of eastern Himalayas and hills of Assam. The tree is stunted in the high hills of the middle Andamans at an altitude of ca 1500 m.

*Population status/Cause for RET* : Vulnerable. Exploited for its wood which is useful for various purposes.



*Description* : Evergreen trees, variable in size. Bark greyish-brown, peeling off in long papery flakes; branches whorled. Leaves scattered or whorled, sessile, 10-18 × 0.8-1.5 cm on old trees and 12.5-25 × 1.5-2 cm on young trees, linear-lanceolate, coriaceous. Pollen cones solitary or in clusters of 2 or 3; peduncle of female solitary, ca 1.3 cm long; male and female flowers axillary. Receptacle of the fruit fleshy, with oblong depression at top, variously lobed, pale yellow-green turning orange-red to deep purple. Seed solitary, 1.5-1.75 × 0.5-1.25 cm, globose, bluish-black when ripe.

*Fl. & Fr.* : May - November.

*Parts used commercially* : The tree yields a high class timber used for carpentry work like making oars, paddles, masts, camp furniture, ladders, airplane parts, tea boxes and also for packing. It is a poor quality fuel wood. The wood seasons well and does not develop surface cracks. The wood is not resistant to white ants but is durable under cover and in contact with water.

The fleshy receptacles of the fruit are edible.

*Legal* : Listed by Nepal in Appendix III of CITES.

*Reference* :

Jain, S.K. & A.R.K. Sastry (1980). Threatened Plants of India. A State-of-the Art Report. P. 43.

