

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

A proposal has been submitted by the Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre of Botanical Survey of India to designate *Lagerstroemia hypoleuca* Kurz (Lythraceae) as the State Flower of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

State Flower: Andaman Pyinma

Botanical Name: *Lagerstroemia hypoleuca* Kurz

Vernacular Names: Andaman Pyinma, Jarul, Pabda, Pyinma

Family: Lythraceae

Etymology: The generic name *Lagerstroemia* is after Magnus von Lagerström of Göteborg (1696 – 1759), a friend of Linnaeus, and the specific epithet.



Description: Deciduous trees, (3-)10 – 20 m tall. Leaves lanceolate to elliptic, subrounded and slightly decurrent at base, undulate at margins, acuminate, rarely acute at apex, 10 – 24 × 4 – 9 cm, subcoriaceous; lateral nerves 6 – 14 pairs; petioles less than 1 cm long. Inflorescence a cymose panicle, terminal, to 40 cm long. Flowers 5 – 8 cm across; mid-flowers usually sessile. Calyx in bud turbinate, campanulate in flower; tube ca 5 mm long, 5-lobed; lobes erect, 3 – 4 mm long. Petals obovate,

undulate at margins, ca 1.5×1 cm, lilac or pinkish purple. Stamens numerous, subequal. Ovary subglobose; style slender. Capsules ellipsoid to subglobose, $1 - 2 \times 1 - 1.5$ cm, woody, slightly brown.

Flowering & Fruiting: June – January.

Range of Distribution: Endemic to Andaman group of Islands.

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