



Scientific Name	<i>Caesalpinia sappan L.</i>
Common Name	Sappan Wood, Brazil Wood, പതിമുഖം
Family	Fabaceae (Leguminosae) Subfamily- Caesalpiaceae
Plant Description	<p>Patang is a small to medium sized, thorny tree, growing up to 10 metres, with conspicuous spines on the stem and leaf rachis. Branchlets are dull, lenticellate, usually armed with paired, recurved stipular prickles. Leaves are large, hairy or glabrate with 9–14 pairs of pinnae. Flowers are golden yellow, arranged in supra-axillary and terminal racemes forming a large panicle. Pods are ellipsoid and brown to black in colour. Flowering and fruiting occur from July to September, extending rarely to November. The plant is xerophytic in nature and grows best in subtropical and tropical regions with dry and hot climatic conditions. It can be grown in a wide range of soils. The red loamy soils rich in humus nutrients are the best suited for its growth</p>

<p>Distribution</p>	<p>The species is frequent in Indian peninsular areas. It is also grown as plantation in all southern states, and extends northwards to Odisha and Bengal. It is native to Indo-Malayan region.</p>
<p>Uses</p>	<p>Chiefly <i>Caesalpinia</i> is emmenagogue, haemostatic, and anti-inflammatory is one of the ingredients of indigenous drug 'lucol', which is administered for the treatment of non-specific leucorrhoea. The heartwood is used in traditional medicine as a treatment for contusion and thrombosis. The paste of the wood is used in curing rheumatism, haemorrhages, and wounds. The heartwood yields a red dye, which is used for cosmetic purposes, as it is resistant to sun rays, light, heat, and water. The plant has anti-cancerous and anti-diarrhoeal properties. The oil obtained from the leaves shows anti-bacterial and anti-fungal action.</p>
<p>Flowering and Fruiting Time</p>	<p>Usually, the stock raised from seeds is used for planting. Fruits are formed 5–15 days after flowering and attain maturity in three months' time, that is, during October-December. Seeds for raising the nursery are collected in November–December.</p>