



<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.
<b>Common Name</b>	Oil- nut mast wood, Tamanu, Beach calophyllum, Beauty leaf, Ball tree, red poon, പുനക്കായ്
<b>Family</b>	Calophyllaceae (Guttiferae, Clusiaceae)
<b>Plant Description</b>	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> is a low-branching and slow-growing tree, which spreads with a broad and irregular crown. It usually reaches 8 to 30 m (26 to 98 ft) in height. Its trunk is thick and covered with black and cracked bark. The flower is 25 to 30 mm (0.98 to 1.18 in) wide and occurs in racemose or paniculate inflorescences consisting of four to 15 flowers. It has a sweet fragrance, which attracts many insects to pollinate it. The blooming is all-year-round. the fruit (the ballnut) appears as rounded and green drupe with 2-4 cm in diameter and a single large seed is

	<p>located at the centre. When ripe, the fruit is wrinkled and its colour varies from yellow to brownish-red. It has thin spongy flesh with a taste slightly like apple.</p>
<p><b>Distribution</b></p>	<p><i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> is native to Africa in: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania (including Pemba Island of Zanzibar Archipelago). It is native to south, southeast and east Asia in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (on Hainan; southern India; Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Indonesia, Japan, (Ryukyu Islands and Okinawa), Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. It is native to the north western, southwestern and south-central Pacific Region in the Cook Islands, Fiji French. It is native to Australia in Northern Territory and Queensland.</p>
<p><b>Uses</b></p>	<p>It is a potential species valued for its seed oil. It is a good alternative to Casuarina as a beach windbreak, for soil stabilization and to control soil erosion. It is amenable for agroforestry and is also intercropped with Acacia spp. Its kernel yields 50-70% oil which is directly being used as fuel in diesel engines without undergoing the trans-esterification process. Trans esterified oil can also be used as biodiesel. Seed oil also called as Tamanu oil has medicinal uses in treating skin diseases and fetches high price (\$4-\$40/ 30 ml) in international market. With recently discovered plant properties like anti-HIV and anti-cancer active</p>

	<p>compounds, <i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> can be placed amongst the most important multipurpose trees. The timber of this species referred to a 'Bintagor' is of superior quality and is popularly traded in South-East Asian countries. It has demand for carving, furniture making, boat building and flooring. It is a durable multi-purpose timber.</p>
<p><b>Flowering and Fruiting Time</b></p>	<p>Flowering can occur perennially, but usually two distinct flowering periods are observed each year: in late spring from April to June, and in late autumn from October to December. In Tamil Nadu along the east coast i.e. Cuddalore, Chennai, Nagai districts the fruit collection period is from July to September while it is during October to December in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. In Kerala along West coast mature fruits can be collected from July to September.</p>