

Aegle marmelos (L.) Correa



Nepali name: **Bel, Shreephah**

Family: **Rutaceae**

English name: Baeltree, Bengal quince

Sanskrit name: Bilva, Shreephah

Trade name: Bel, Marmelos

Other name: Iiguru-malumero, Bel-no-ki (Japanese)



Description: A medium sized evergreen tree upto 8 m high, armed with straight and sharp axillary 2.5 cm long thorns. Bark yellowish brown with shallow furrows. Leaves tri-foliolate, leaflets 5–10 by 2.5–6.3 cm, ovate or ovate lanceolate, crenate, acuminate, membranous, pellucid, punctate, the lateral opposite, sub sessile, the terminal long petioled. Flowers greenish white, sweet scented, about 2.5 cm. across, in axillary panicles. Fruits 5.8 cm. diam, globose, gray or yellowish, rind woody.

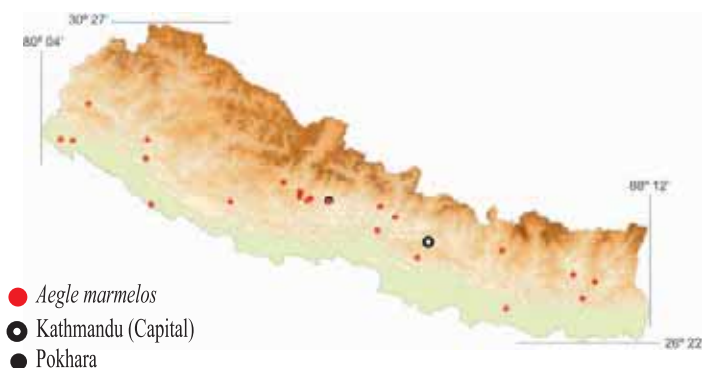
Flowering: April-May

Parts used: Roots, leaves and fruits.

Uses: The ripe fruit is sweet, aromatic and the drink is given for chronic constipation and dyspepsia. The roots are useful in diarrhoea and dysentery. The leaves are expectorant, astringent and also useful in diabetes, ophthalmic and asthmatic complaints. Fruit is taken in stomachache. Pulp of unripe fruit is taken as laxative whereas ripe fruit is used in diarrhoea and dysentery.

Distribution: Himalayas (Kashmir to Nepal), India, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Malaysia; between 150–1000 m.

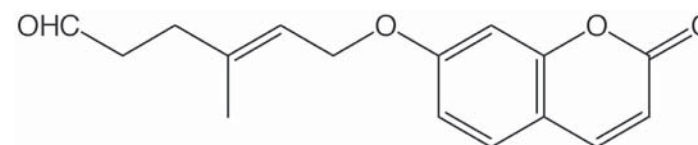
Distribution Map (Nepal):



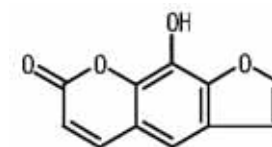
Tree

Fruit

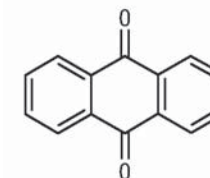
Chemical constituents:



Marminal



Xanthotoxol



Anthraquinone

- References:** Abeysekera, A. M., De Silva, K. T. D., Samarasinghe, S., Seneviratne, P. A. K., Van Den Berg, A. J. J. and Labadie, R. P. 1996. An immunomodulatory C-glucosylated propelargonidin from the unripe fruit of *Aegle marmelos*. *Fitoterapia*, **67** (4), 367-370.
- Ali, M. S. and Pervez, M. K.. 2004. Marmenol: A 7-geranyloxycoumarin from the leaves of *Aegle marmelos* Corr. *Natural Product Research*, **18** (2), 141-146.
- Yang, X., Masao, H. and Tsuneo, N. 1996. Two new coumarins from the roots of *Aegle marmelos*. *Journal of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences*, **5** (2), 68-73.
- Srivastava, S. D., Srivastava, S. and Srivastava, S. K. 1996. New anthraquinones from the heartwood of *Aegle marmelos*. *Fitoterapia*, **67** (1), 83-84.

Note: The gum of bel fruit is used as a binding paste for making local Tobacco in east-Nepal.