

Abstract

A brief account of experiments on white sandalwood

White sandalwood is also known as East Indian Sandalwood. White sandalwood is not fussy about where it grows, whether in fertile valleys or on dry mountain sides, it thrives anywhere. White sandalwood has been recognized as a “Royal Tree” in India since 1792. One sandalwood tree in a forest makes the whole forest smell of sandalwood as the scent cling to other trees. Sandalwood is a root parasite and extracts nutrients from the host plant by means of special formations called haustoria.

It is not a single species of tree that nourishes the sandalwood but several and it is not yet fully understood what the exact conditions are that allow the tree to thrive. White sandalwood aroma spreads all over when it comes to extract oil from it. It is generally employed for skin care. It is endowed with antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, disinfectant, astringent and emollient properties. That is why, so many people use sandalwood to treat acne, skin rashes, blackheads, dark spots blemishes and to get a fair and flawless complexion. In a word it has immense important uses since ancient Indian era. But it grows in specific edaphic conditions.

These experiments were conducted to explore its growth and development in different locations in India and Nepal to survey its qualitative and quantitative aspects.

The objectives were:

- Manipulation of seed germination by different concentrations of chemicals like IAA/ kinetin/ GA₃.
- To explore the suitable conditions for the proper growth of this plant with various associated plants in Nepal.
- Quantitative assessment of growth data till its establishment.
- To study any morphogenetic peculiarities & to study differential seeding of each type.
- To assess the qualitative parameters through biochemical analyses.