

PRESENT STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF SANDAL WOOD WITH ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE VALUES ACROSS THE GLOBE

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Abstract: Sandal wood trees are medium sized hemiparasitic in nature falls under the same botanical family of European mistletoe with the notable members like Indian sandal wood (*Santalum album*) and Australian sandal wood (*Santalum spicatum*) which are found in India, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Australia, Indonesia, Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. Indian sandalwood is a threatened species and indigenous to South India and grows in the Western Ghats and a few other mountain ranges like the Kalrayan and Shevaroy Hills (Tamil Nadu, India). Sandalwood from the Mysore region of Karnataka and Marayoor forest in Kerala, Southern India is of high quality.

Keywords: Hemi-parasite, Mistletoe, Threatened species, Economic exploitation, *Padma*

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