

Thammineni Pullaiah · Sudhir Chandra Das  
Vishwas A. Bapat · Mallappa Kumara Swamy  
Vaddi Damodar Reddy  
Kondragunta Sri Rama Murthy *Editors*

# Sandalwood: Silviculture, Conservation and Applications

 Springer

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# Sandalwood: Silviculture, Conservation and Applications

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*Editors*

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Subbiah Karuppusamy

## Abstract

*Santalum album* L. (Sandalwood) is one of the most valuable tree species in Indian forestry. It is an important export product, and is highly traded illegally in the international market. It provides significant cash incomes, and adds a considerable value to the national economy. This wood is highly expensive, and used not only in medicinal uses, but also in various industrial purposes. Hence, it is being overexploited from their natural habitats, since the past centuries. Though these trees naturally grow in the forest, there is no systematic cultivation, and at the face of increased exploitation, Sandalwood has become an endangered species in India. As a prohibited item for the export, Sandalwood is included in the list of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This chapter highlights the illegal trade of Sandalwood, smugglers and Sandalwood mafias, exploiting wood from the forest with a few incidents of smuggling stories and controlling measures for illegal trade.

## Keywords

Sandalwood · Wood · Tree · Smuggling · Illegal trade · Essential oil

## 11.1 Introduction

*Santalum album* L., commonly known as Sandalwood or sandal is a small tropical tree, is widely accepted as the most precious and commercial timber species with an estimated market volume of more than \$1 billion (Srinivasan et al. 1992; Viswanath et al. 2008). The species is indigenous to India and its distribution is limited to an

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## **Sandalwood: Silviculture, Conservation and Applications**

This book collects comprehensive information on taxonomy, morphology, distribution, wood anatomy, wood properties and uses. It also discusses silvicultural aspects, agroforestry, pests and diseases, biotechnology, molecular studies, biosynthesis of oil, conservation, trade and commerce of Sandal wood. Sandalwood (*Santalum album* L.) is considered as one of the world's most valuable commercial timber and is known globally for its heartwood and oil. The book brings together systematic representation of information with illustrations, thus an all-inclusive reference and field guide for foresters, botanists, researchers, farmers, traders and environmentalists.

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