



Macaranga peltata (Roxb.) Müll. Arg.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Common name: Kenda

Vernacular name: തൊട്ടുകണ്ണി

Nativity: India, Sri Lanka

Habit: Tree

Habitat: Moist deciduous forest , forests borders

IUCN Status: Least Concerned.

Keynotes: It is a resinous tree, up to 10 metres tall. Young parts are velvet hairy. Leaves measure 20 to 50 centimetres by 12 to 21 centimetres , are alternately arranged, circular or broadly ovate, entire or minutely dentate, and palmately 9-nerved. The leaf stalk is attached on the lower surface of the leaf, not on the base. Yellow-green flowers occur in long panicles in leaf axils in the months of January to February. Male flowers are minute, numerous, and clustered in the axils of large bracts. One round, black seed is in a spherical capsule 4 to 5 mm across.

Uses: Kenda leaves are commonly used for flavoring in Sri Lanka. Halapa dough is often flattened on a kenda leaf to soak in the flavor. Kenda leaves are used to wrap jaggery and other sweetmeats. The major use of *Macranga peltata* is for making wooden pencils and in the plywood industry. Kollam produces 75 to 100 truck loads of pencil slats.



References

<https://powo.science.kew.org/>

<https://sites.google.com/view/campusflora/home?authuser=0>

<https://www.wikipedia.org/>

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