

## *Terminalia bialata* (Roxb.) Steud.



*Terminalia bialata* (Roxb.) Steud. is a Southeast Asian botanical entity belonging to the Angiosperm family Combretaceae, demonstrates wide range of distribution from Indo-China to Philippines through the corridor of Andaman-Nicobar Islands. This is an extra Indian species confined its occurrence only in Andaman-Nicobar Islands within the Indian Territory. This tall tree reaches up to 50m in height with crowded leaves at the apices of branches. *Terminalia bialata* is a moderately durable timber species locally known as 'safed chuglam' or 'white chuglam' among the islands of Andaman-Nicobar Archipelago. It is rather common along the beach forest (Littoral forests) to inland forests (Mixed forests) of the islands. The winged fruits of the species are curious and apparently butterfly shaped. Flowering starts in December and fruits mature in April. Regarding the etymology of the taxon, the generic name, *Terminalia* is derived from the Latin word '*terminus*' referred to the nature of leaves crowded towards the apices of the shoots; while the specific epithet is denoted with the typical bi-winged fruits of the taxon.

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