

DEPARTMENTAL NOTE

GUMS AND RESINS

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THERE are in Ceylon numbers of trees which yield gums or resins, and while it is unlikely that an export trade in these products will ever be developed, nevertheless it is possible that some of them may be of use as local substitutes for products that are now imported. The following brief notes refer to trees that are all wild and of common occurrence, and apparently of sufficient promise to be worth investigation. It is not suggested that they should be planted, at least at first; the utilization of wild trees will suffice to indicate the possibilities of any of them as sources of marketable gums or resins.

1. *Limonia acidissima* Linn. (= *Feronia elephantum* Corr.)

Wood apple

S. Diwul

T. Vila, Vilatti, Mayaladikkuruntu.

A small tree which occurs very commonly throughout the dry regions. The trunk yields a gum which strongly resembles gum arabic, for which it may be used as a substitute. It should be suitable for local use as a mucilage. It is used medicinally in India, in place of gum arabic.

2. *Lannea grandis* Engl. (= *Odina Wodier* Roxb.)

S. Hik

T. Odi

A small tree which occurs commonly in both dry and wet low-country, but especially in the former. A gum runs from the stem which is used in India as size for whitewash and in calico printing.

3. *Canarium zeylanicum* Bl.

S. Dik-kekuna, Kekuna

T. Pakkilipal

Common in the low-country. Yields an abundance of a clean fragrant gum-resin which is used for fumigation and is also burnt for light in houses mixed with sand. It resembles elemi, which is used medicinally for making ointments.

4. *Dipterocarpus zeylanicus* Thw.

S. Hora

A large tree occurring commonly in the moist low-country. Yields a semi-liquid gum-resin that may be of use for varnish and lacquer.

5. *Doona zeylanica* Thw.

S. Dun

T. Koongili maram

A large tree, common in moist regions between 1,000-4,000 feet. An excellent colourless dammar-like resin exudes from the trunk, and could be used as a substitute for dammar in varnishes.

6. *Garcinia Cambogia* Desrouss.

S. Goraka

T. Koraikkapuli

G. Morella

S. Kanagoraka, Goraka, Kokatiya.

T. Makki

Both species occur commonly up to 1,500 feet in the moist region. Both yield a gum-resin, that of *G. Cambogia* being useful as a varnish and that of *G. Morella* being the true Gamboge of commerce, used as a pigment.

7. *Semecarpus Gardneri* Thw.

S. Badulla

A moderate sized tree occurring commonly in the moist low-country. The bark yields an almost-black resin which may form the basis of black varnish.

8. *Vateria copallifera* Retz. (= *V. acuminata* Hayne.)

S. Hal

A large tree occurring commonly in wet districts up to 2,500 feet, especially near streams. The stem exudes an abundance of a clear yellowish resin, equal to the best dammar.

9. *Vatica chinensis* Linn. (= *V. Roxburghiana* Bl.)

S. Mendora

A moderate-sized tree rather common in the moist low-country, especially near streams. An abundance of a yellow transparent resin exudes from the stem, which should have a use similar to that from *Vateria*.