



Feature photograph

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Feature photograph



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***Dombeya acutangula* ssp. *rosea* Friedmann, Sterculiaceae**

The genus *Dombeya* consists of some 200 species in mostly African and Madagascan habitats. Medicinal uses of *Dombeya* spp. are reported from tropical Africa (*D. rotundifolia*), Madagascar and other islands of the Indian Ocean (*D. wallichii* and *D. acutangula*). Applications include treatment of ulcers, menstrual disorders, dysentery and colic. Plants are also grown for their wood and as ornamentals.

Heterophyllous shrub, 1-4 m high, with light grey, smooth bark. Adult leaves with 5x13 cm blade, margins crenate; petiole 3-11 cm long. Inflorescence bearing up to 20 flowers arranged in double scorpioid cymes. Flowers pink, 1.5-3 cm in diameter. Seeds up to 10.

The leaves of *D. acutangula* contain alkaloids, tannins and phenols.