



## NAKSHATRA VANAM

### Poison Nut Tree for Aswini Nakshatra



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**Botanical Name:** *Strychnos nux-vomica*

**Tamil Name:** Etti

**Sanskrit Name:** Karaskaram, Vishatindukam, Vishadruma, Kalakutaka

### Habitat

It is a deciduous evergreen medium sized tree grows upto 40 feet and is native to East India, Burma, Thailand, China, and Northern Australia. The leaves are oval in shape with glossy coat and arranged in opposite decussate. The leaves are about 3 – 4 inches long and 2 – 3 inches wide. The flowers are small and funnel shaped and pale green in colour. The fruit are orange in color and are the size of a small apple. Inside the fruit are five seeds surrounded by a jelly-like pulp



*Flowers of the plant*



*Fruits of the plant*

### **Medicinal Use**

*Nux vomica* is one of the most frequently used homeopathic remedies, especially for acute conditions. Homeopaths prescribe this polychrest for hangovers, back pain, digestive problems, headaches, allergies, colds, flu, emotional stress, constipation, menstrual problems and hemorrhoids.

### **Poisoning and Antidotes**

In cases of poisoning by strychnine an emetic or the stomach pump is used and tannin or potassium permanganate is given to render the strychnine inactive. Violent convulsions are controlled by administration of chloroform or large doses of chloral or bromide. Urethane in large doses is considered an antidote. Amyl nitrite is also useful owing to its rapid action during the convulsion, and in absence of respiration 3 to 5 minims may be hypodermically injected.

### **Religious association**

The name *Strychnos nux-vomica* is also used in the science of astrology under the constellation Aswini. The importance of this medicinal plant can be inferred from the fact that many sacred groves in Tamil Nadu.

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