

# Beefwood tree



Common name: Beefwood tree, Cassowary tree

Scientific name: *Casuarina equisetifolia*

This evergreen tree with drooping branches is native to Andaman Islands, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Australia, and the Philippines. The tree usually grows in coastal regions, where it often forms pure stands. The dark brown color of its wood gives it the name Beefwood tree.

The tree's woody cones contain many fruits, which have winged seeds. The tree is wind pollinated. In India, the tree is dioecious– in other words, male and female flowers are present on separate trees. However, in other parts of the world the tree might be monoecious (have male and female flowers on the same plant).

The tree's hard wood can be used for fuel and to make objects like poles, rafters, oars, etc. The tree is also grown ornamentally, to prevent soil erosion, to rehabilitate infertile soils, and used for its traditional medicinal properties.