

Topic: Apocynaceae; Economic importance  
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## **Economic Importance of Apocynaceae:**

### **Vegetables:**

The pulpy fruits of *Carissa carandus* (H. Karaunda) are edible and also pickled

### **Medicinal:**

The root of *Rauwolfia serpentina* (H. Sarp Gandha) are used in lowering blood pressure, sedative, stimulator for uterine contraction and in mental diseases. The juice of leaves is used for removal of opacities of the cornea of the eyes. Anti-cancerous drugs are extracted from *Catharanthus roseus*.

The bark of *Alstonia scholaris* is a febrifuge. *Holarrhena antidysenterica* yields a drug which is a cure for amoebic dysentery.

### **Rubber:**

Many species of *Hancora*, *Dyera*, *Urceola* are the sources of rubber.

### **Poisonous:**

The seeds of *Thevetia* contain *Thevetine* a poisonous glycoside. The latex of *Acokanthera* is used for poisoning arrows. The bark and wood of *Nerium indicum* provide rat-poison.

### **Ornamental:**

*Nerium*, *Catharanthus* (syn. *Vinca*), *Thevetia*, *Wrightia*, *Allamanda* are cultivated in gardens as ornamentals.