

# Preliminary Studies on *Alstonia scholaris* (L.) R. Br. Galls

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**Abstract**—*Alstonia scholaris* (L.) R. Br. is an elegant evergreen tree belonging to family Apocynaceae, commonly known as devil tree or saptparna, grows to a height of 30-40 m and found in most of the parts of India. This tree is used in Ayurvedic, Unani and Sidhha/Tamil types of alternative medicinal systems for treatment of fever, cancer, tumour, jaundice, hepatitis, malaria and skin diseases etc. One of the important alkaloid present in the plant called alstonine was reported to have anticancerous property. Galls are frequently observed on the leaves of this tree. The pouch galls occurs on both sides of the leaf blade of the plant which are semiglobose, conical on adaxial surface and trunculated conical on abaxial side. The galls are pale green initially but become yellowish when mature. The gall-forming psyllid was identified as *Pseudophacopteron tuberculatum* (Crawford) (Homoptera: Psylloidea: Phacopteronidae). Eggs are laid singly or in groups at more than one place with some physiologic fluid which acts as a stimulant for initiation of gall. All the stages develop inside galls. Adults are generally dark to reddish brown, connexivum of abdomen white, wings hyaline; body robust, abdomen humped.