

Crataeva religiosa Hook. f. & Thoms.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

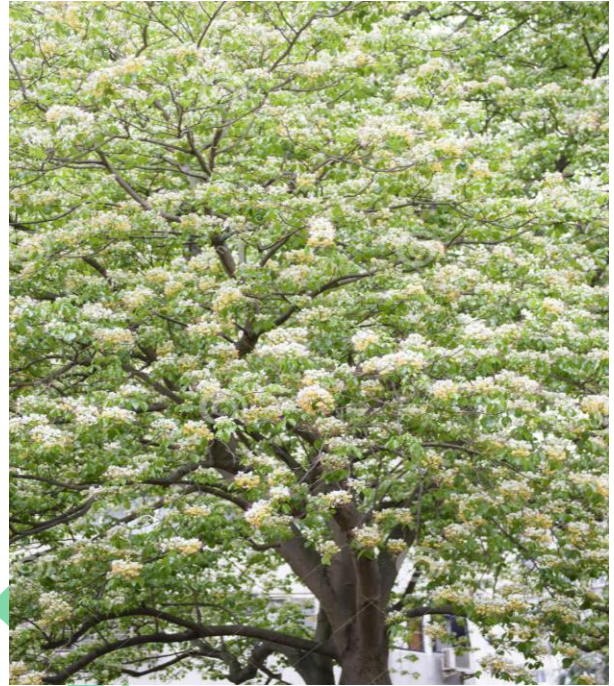
Class: Magnoliopsida

Order : Capparales

Family: Capparaceae

Genus: *Crataeva*

Species: *Crataeva religiosa*



Popular names: Varuna, Barna, Bilasi, Asmarighna, Haravarna, Maralingam, Vayavarna

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: April to June

Fruiting time: June to August

Plant distribution: It is native to Japan, Australia, much of Southeast Asia and several south Pacific islands.

Gardening notes:

- 1. Light:** It can grow well in semi shade.
- 2. Moisture:** It requires moderate water supply.
- 3. Propagation:** By seeds and root suckers.

Economic importance:

1. The bark is an antipyretic and sedative.
2. The fresh leaves are rubefacient and vesicant.
3. The pulp of the plant is used as an adhesive and with cement to strengthen it.
4. The combs, match-sticks and other small articles are prepared from its wood.
5. Bark stimulates liver, its extract used as a laxative and for promoting appetite; also given in calculus and other urinary affections.
6. Flowers astringent and cholagogue.

Plant description: It is small spreading tree.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, solid, woody, branched, cylindrical; bark brown, small granules present.

Leaf- Compound, unipinnate, imparipinnate, petiolate, petiole green, 4-6 cm long, leaflets 3, 3-6 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, ovate, entire, acuminate, glabrous.

Inflorescence- Racemose.

Flower- Large, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic, pedicellate, pedicel green, tubular, 5-6 cm long, hypogynous, complete; **Sepals-** 4, green, polysepalous, inferior, inserted on the edge of a large lobed disk, valvate aestivation; **Petals-** 4, yellow, polypetalous, long, clawed, inferior, veined surface, ovate, acute, valvate aestivation; **Stamens-** many, polyandrous, adnate to the base of the gynophore, inferior, stamens longer than petals, filaments long, light reddish with creamish base, anthers yellow, clawed type; **Carpel-** 2, ovary superior, on a slender stalk, green, unilocular, parietal placentation, ovules many, stigma yellowish green;

Fruit- Berry, rounded, green, ovoid, pericarp hard, many seeded.

Seed- Kidney shaped, nearly smooth, black, in pulp.

Some close up pictures of flower parts



Flori