

Murraya koenigii (Linn.) Spreng.

Systematic Position

Kingdom: Plantae

Order: Sapindales

Family: Rutaceae

Genus: *Murraya*

Species: *M. koenigii*



Popular names: Curry leaf tree, Kathnim, Mitha neem, Kurry patta, Limblee tree, Barsanga.

Nature: Tree

Flowering time: March to May

Fruiting time: June to September

Plant distribution: It is native of India and is also cultivated throughout the country. It commonly occurs in the foothills of Himalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Apart from India, it is also found in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, and Pacific Islands, Bangladesh etc.

Gardening notes:

1. Light: It grows well in full sun to part shade.

2. Water: It requires medium water supply.

3. Propagation: By seeds or root cuttings.

Economic importance:

1. Leaves used as a flavouring and in chutneys.
2. They also yield an essential oil used as a fixative for heavy type of soap perfume.
3. Fruits are edible and yield an essential oil.
4. Leaves used for diarrhoea and dysentery and for checking vomiting.
5. Juice of root is taken to relieve pain associated with kidney.
6. Wood used for agricultural implements.
7. The paste of leaves is applied on urticarial.
8. The bark is used externally to treat eruptions and bites of poisonous insects and reptiles.

Plant description: It is a small tree, growing to 13–20 feet tall.

Root- Tap root, branched; **Stem-** Aerial, erect, woody, branched, solid, cylindrical, glabrous, bark- rough, light brown.

Leaf-Compound, unipinnate, imparipinnate, alternate, green, exstipulate, pulvinus base, petiolate, petiole- 4-6 cm long, thin, leaflets- 11-21, ovate, blade 6-8 cm long, 4-4.5 cm wide, smooth, alternate, small serrate margins, obtuse and notched tip, oblique at the base, petiolulate, petiolule- small, reddish, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial surface light green, unicostate reticulate venation, aromatic.

Inflorescence- Terminal cyme.

Flower- Small, complete, pentamerous, hermaphrodite, hypogynous, white, fragrant, pedicellate, pedicel- green, hairy, minute, bracteate, bracteolate, bracts and bracteole- small, thin, brown; Sepals -5, gamosepalous, green, minute,

acute, quincuncial aestivation, inferior; Petals – 5, polypetalous, white, fragrant, spreading above, oblong, lanceolate, entire, inferior, quincuncial aestivation ; Stamens-10, polyandrous, in two whorls of 5 each, filaments- creamish, long in outer whorl and short in inner whorl, anthers- creamish, basifixed, bithecous, introse, inferior; Carpels- 2, syncarpous, ovary- green, mostly bilocular but can be three locular, superior, axile placentation, two ovules in each chamber, style- long, filiform, stigma- capitate, sticky, bifid.

Fruit- Berry, ovoid or subglobose, green when unripe and red when ripe, single seeded.

Seed- Small, creamish, rounded, embedded in mucilage.



Bark



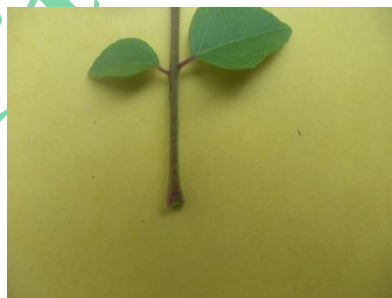
A leaf



Adaxial surface of leaflet



Abaxial surface of leaflet



Pulvinus base



Inflorescence



Buds



Bracts



Calyx



Corolla



Androecium



Gynoecium

Flora of KCH