

Bauhinia variegata

Botanical name: *Bauhinia variegata*

Common name: Bogakatra, Koliar

Morphological characters:

Bauhinia variegata is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree with a short bole and spreading crown, attaining a height of up to 15 m and diameter of 50 cm. In dry forests, the size is much smaller. The bark is light brownish grey, smooth to slightly fissured and scaly. Inner bark is pinkish, fibrous and bitter. The twigs are slender, zigzag; when young, light green, slightly hairy, and angled, becoming brownish grey. Leaves have minute stipules 1-2 mm, early caducous; petiole puberulous to glabrous, 3-4 cm; lamina broadly ovate to circular, often broader than long, 6-16 cm diameter; 11-13 nerved; tips of lobes broadly rounded, base cordate; upper surface glabrous, lower glaucous but glabrous when fully grown. Flower clusters (racemes) are unbranched at ends of twigs. The few flowers have short, stout stalks and a stalklike, green, narrow basal tube (hypanthium). The light green, fairly hairy calyx forms a pointed 5-angled bud and splits open on 1 side, remaining attached; petals 5, slightly unequal, wavy margined and narrowed to the base; 5 curved stamens; very slender, stalked, curved pistil, with narrow, green, 1-celled ovary, style and dotlike stigma.



Growing season and type:

1. In its natural habitat in India, the tree is deciduous, remaining leafless from Jan-Feb to April with leaf fall in Nov-Dec.
2. Flowering occurs when the plant is leafless.
3. Tree starts flowering at a very early age of 2-3 years.
4. The seeds disperse from the pods and germinate on sites with favourable light and moisture conditions, while in unfavourable niches the radicle dries up or is destroyed by birds.



1



2



3

1. Flower of *Bauhinia variegata*
2. Leaves of *Bauhinia variegata*
3. *Bauhinia variegata* tree