

Flacourtia indica

Botanical name: *Flacourtia indica*

Common name: Indian plum, Bilangra

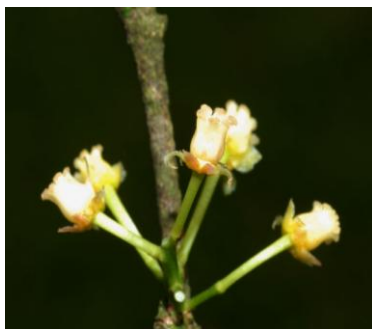
Morphological characters:

Flacourtia indica is a tree or shrub usually 3-5 m tall, sometimes 10 m. Bark is usually pale, grey, powdery, may become brown to dark grey and flaking, revealing pale orange patches. Leaves red or pink when young, variable in size, oval to round, to 12 cm, edge toothed, becoming leathery; 4-7 pairs of veins clear on both surfaces; stalk to 2 cm. Flowers unisexual or occasionally bisexual (1 or several branches of a female specimen with perfect flowers, which, however, bear fewer stamens than the males). Male flowers in axillary racemes 0.5-2 cm long; pedicels slender, may be pubescent, up to 1 cm long, the basal bracts minute and caducous. Sepals (min. 4) 5-6 (max. 7), broadly ovate, apex acute to rounded, pubescent on both sides, 1.5-2.5 mm long and broad. Filaments 2-2.5 mm long; anthers 0.5 mm long. Disk lobulate. Female flowers in short racemes or solitary; pedicels up to 5 mm. Disk lobulate, clasping the base of the ovoid ovary; styles 4-8, central, connate at the base, spreading, up to 1.5 mm long; stigmas truncate. Fruit globular, reddish to reddish-black or purple when ripe, fleshy, up to 2.5 cm across, with persistent styles, up to 10-seeded. Seeds 5-8, 8-10 x 4-7 mm; testa rugose, pale brown.



Growing season and type:

1. The tree is usually leafless just before flowering.
2. In India, the flowers appear from December to April together with the new leaves, which are a very beautiful fresh green colour.
3. Fruits ripen from March to July.
4. They are eaten by birds, thus the seeds are widely dispersed, accounting for the very wide distribution of the species.



1



2



3

1. Flower of *Flacourtia indica*
2. Leaves of *Flacourtia indica*
3. Fruits of *Flacourtia indica*