

Trema orientalis

Botanical name: *Trema orientalis*

Common name: Charcoal tree

Morphological characters:

Trema orientalis is an evergreen shrub or tree up to 18 m in height. A short basally swollen bole, heavy branching and rounded to spreading crown. The slender branchlets are covered with white velvety hairs. Bark grey or brown, smooth but marked with parallel longitudinal lines and corky spots; slash creamy-white to light yellow, fibrous, bright green immediately beneath the bark. It has an extensive root system that enables it to survive long periods of drought. Leaves simple, alternate, stipulate, along drooping branches, to 14 cm long, papery, rough to the touch and dull above, short grey hairs below, the edge finely toothed all round, blade unequal sided. Flowers small, green or greenish-white, unisexual, borne in a crowded inflorescence consisting mainly of male flowers with a few female ones at the top. Fruit small, round and fleshy, glossy black when ripe, 4-6 mm, containing 1 dull black seed embedded in bright green flesh. The name *Trema* is based on the Greek word for a hole and alludes to the pitted seeds. The specific name, 'orientalis' is Latin for eastern-'of the orient.



Growing season and type:

1. *T. orientalis* flowers from February to April in Assam India, flowers unisexual.
2. Fruit ripening varies with the locality, but in most places in India, occurs from December-May.
3. Birds are very fond of the fruit and disperse the fleshy drupes.
4. *T. orientalis* is found in the lowland humid tropics. It is among the first trees to establish in clearings, on flood-damaged riverbanks, and also colonizes denuded poor soils.
5. The species is intolerant of fire.



1



2



3

1. Flower of *T. orientalis*
2. Leaves of *T. orientalis*
3. *T. orientalis* tree

Source:

http://www.worldagroforestry.org/treedb/AFTPDFS/Trema_orientalis.PDF