

**Common Name: Ficus**

**Botanical name: Ficus Benjamina.**

**Family: Myrtaceae**

*F. benjamina* is a large strangling fig with an umbrella-shaped, graceful crown and few or no aerial roots. It is grown for medicinal and ornamental purposes and is therefore found in many countries outside its natural range; it is often planted in villages and cemeteries.

#### Botanical Classification

Kingdom: Plantae

Family: Moraceae

Genus: Ficus

Species: *Ficus benjamina*

#### Description

Tree to 15 m high (50 feet) with the fused conical stipules enclosing the stem tip, sap milky. Leaves simple, alternate, blade ovate to elliptic, 4-12 cm long (1 5/8-5 in), typically light green, finely veined, with a sharp or attenuate tip. Fruits can be found on the tree throughout the year. Fruit an orange, red, pink, or purple, subglobose synconium 7-12 mm long (1/4-1/2 in), paired in the leaf axils.

## Distribution

Asia: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Oceanic Islands: Solomon Islands; Australasia. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Tripura



FIG. 1: *FICUS BENJAMINA* (A) LEAVES; (B) TREE; (C) FRUITS; (D) STEM BARK

## Phytoconstituents

Phytochemical screening have been performed on various parts of *Ficus benjamina*, which reveals the presence of anthocyanins, alkaloids, coumarins, carotenoids, flavonoids, glycosides, phenolics, polyphenols, saponins, tannins, triterpenoids volatile components, and vitamins.

## Medicinal and Therapeutic value:

<b>Part of Plant Used</b>	<b>Usage</b>
Whole plant	Blood purification
Roots	Fever, headache, asthma, diabetes, postpartum care and recovery
Leaves	Antimycobacterial
Leaves and shoots	Ulcer, cough, dysentery
Bark	For rheumatism
Whole plant	Stomachache, blood purification, ulcers
Fruits	Antioxidant
Fruit	Liver diseases
Fruit, bark, root and leaves	Inflammation, Skin disorders, demulcent, piles, vomiting, leprosy
Leaf, stem, roots	Skin disease, Swelling
Whole plant	Ulcers and leprosy
Leaves, milky juice	Ulcers, complaints of cornea
Whole plant	Ulcers, leprosy
Fruit, Stem Bark, Heartwood, leaves	Inflammation, piles, malaria, controls sugar levels, Boils, cuts, and wounds