

Bauhinia purpurea

Orchid Tree, Purple Butterfly Tree



Orchid tree, *Bauhinia purpurea*, is a tropical, evergreen small tree or shrub up to 4 - 10 m tall and 2 m across. It has an erect and slender stem, crooked branches, green leaves, and large, purple and orchid like flowers. It is native to South China and Southeast Asia. Orchid tree exhibits medicinal properties. Its root is carminative, flowers are laxative, and the bark, roots and flowers, when mixed with rice-water, are used in poultice form as a maturant. It is also a food plant. The leaves, flower buds, flowers, and young seedpods are cooked and eaten as vegetable. The flower buds can also be pickled and used in curries. Aside from the abovementioned uses of the plant, it also yields a gum. The bark is a source of tannins and fibre, and is used for dyeing. The fine wood is hard and durable and is used in carpentry and fuel. Orchid tree is also cultivated as an ornamental tree. Common names: Orchid Tree, Purple Butterfly Tree, Mountain Ebony, Geranium Tree, Purple Bauhinia. Other Names:

Alibangbang, Barada, Bol-megong, Bunga kupu-kupu, Ching-kho, Chuvannamandaram, Dev-Kanchan, Deva kanchan, Guiral, Jia telong, Kachnar, Kachner, Kairwal, Kanchanam, Kandan, Kaniar, Karalli, Karar, Keelra, Koiralo, Koliar, Kurul, Levosii, Mandari, Mong bo hoa tim, Msekese, Phak-siew, Purple Bauhinia, Rakia kanchan, Rakia-kanchan, Rato kanchan, Sarul, Shivapa, Sona, Tanki, Tapak kuda, Tapak unta, Vaubeh, Vau-fa-vang, Zi Yangtija.

Edible Uses

Edible Parts: Flowers Fruit Leaves Seed Seedpod

Edible Uses: Condiment Gum

Edible portion: Flowers, Leaves, Seeds, Fruit, Gum. Leaves - cooked and eaten as a vegetable. They are used in curries. Flower buds and flowers - cooked and eaten as a vegetable. The flower buds are often pickled or used in curries. Young seedpods - cooked and eaten as a vegetable. The seeds are fried and eaten. The gum is edible.

References [More on Edible Uses](#)

Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medicinally.

Carminative Laxative

The root is carminative. The flowers are laxative. The bark, roots and flowers, when mixed with rice-water, are used in poultice form as a maturant.

