

Chinaberry

Botanical Name: *Melia azedarach*

Family: *Meliaceae*

Common Name: Chinaberry Tree

Hindi Name: बकायन

Part Used: Bark, fruit, and seed

Importance

Melia azedarach is a deciduous tree native to a wide area from India through China to Australia. It has naturalized throughout warm-temperate regions and the tropics. It is considered invasive in North Carolina and elsewhere in the Southeast. It is a member of the neem family (Meliaceae). The fully grown tree has a rounded crown, and commonly measures 7–12 metres (20–40 feet) tall, exceptionally 45 m (150 ft). The leaves are up to 50 centimetres (20 inches) long, alternate, long-petioled, two or three times compound (odd-pinnate); the leaflets are dark green above and lighter green below, with serrate margins. The chinaberry tree (*Melia azedarach*) has been used in traditional medicine for various ailments, including skin diseases, inflammation, and infections. Extracts from the tree have also shown potential antibacterial, antimalarial, antifertility, and antiviral properties. The concentrated liqure of bark and seeds used in treatment of vitiligo, viral fever, urogenital infections, antiseptic, and skin rashes.