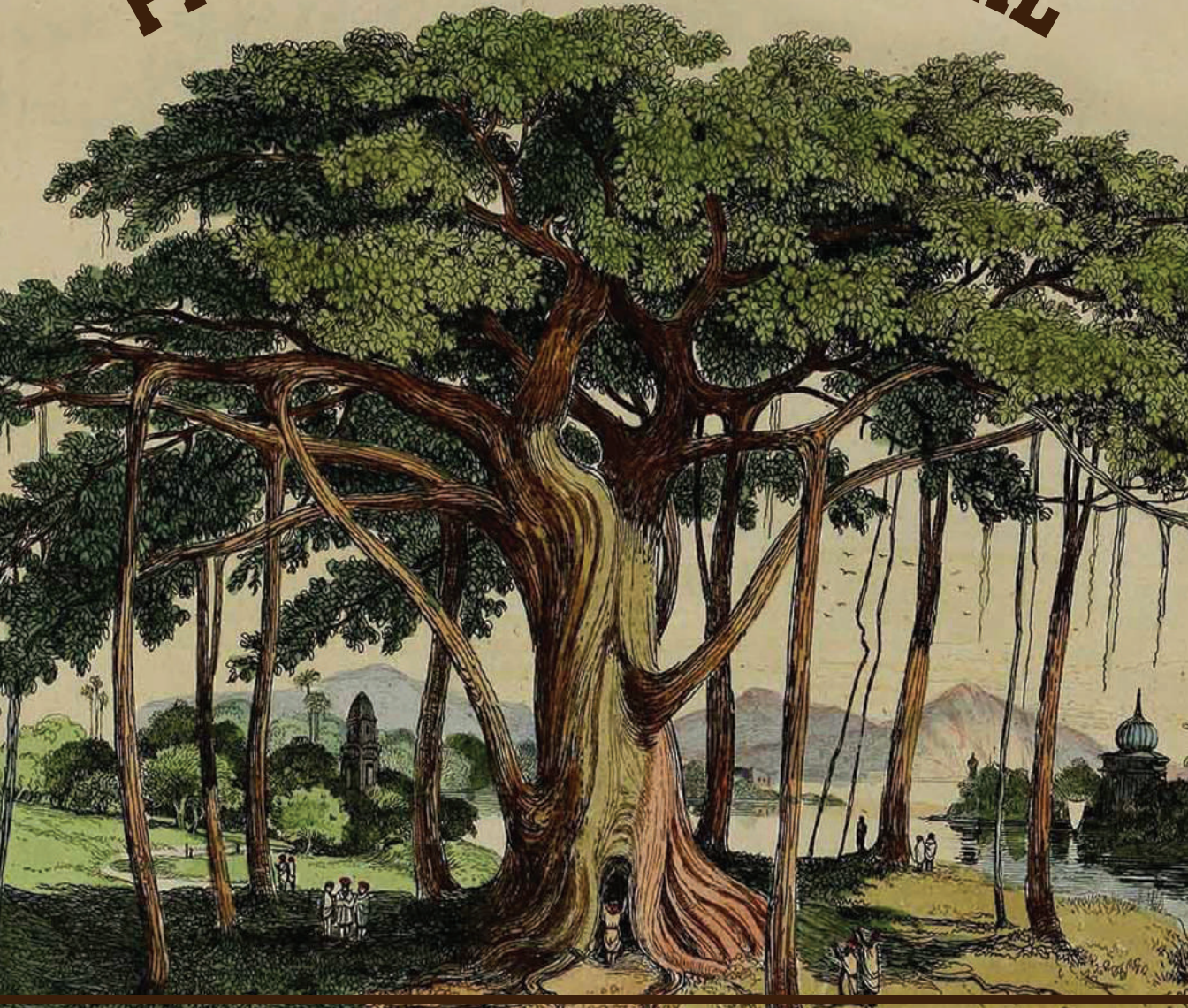




भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

FICUS IN WEST BENGAL



ENVIS RESOURCE PARTNER ON BIODIVERSITY (FLORA)

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

2022

Ficus in West Bengal A Pictorial Guide

**Gopal Krishna
Anant Kumar
Vinay Ranjan
&
K. Karthigeyan**

under ENVIS Programme



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FICUS L.

Ficus L. commonly known as 'fig' is considered as crucial component of forest ecosystems across the tropics. Owing to their mutualistic relationship with pollinator fig wasps, fig trees produce very high volumes of fruit throughout the year. Having high concentrations of rare minerals in fruit, the fig trees are important food resources for many frugivorous mammals and birds. In India, several fig species play an important role in Hindu and Buddhist beliefs and in Hindu tradition *Ficus benghalensis* L. is treated as a holy tree while in Buddhists, *Ficus religiosa* L. is considered most sacred tree, as it was under this tree that Buddha received enlightenment.

The genus *Ficus* was described by Linnaeus in *Species Plantarum* in 1753. Roxburgh (1832) recorded 55 species in his *Flora Indica*, out of which 38 species were described as new species. He broadly categorized all species into two sections based on arrangement and attachment of figs: Section I- fig solitary or in pair and Section II- fig in fascicle, raceme, or panicle. King worked on *Ficus* of Indio-Malayan and Chinese regions and published its taxonomic account in *Annals of the Royal Botanic Gardens* in 1887–1888. Unlike the previous classifications, he divided the genus into seven sections (*Palaeomorpha*, *Urostigma*, *Synoecia*, *Sycidium*, *Covellia*, *Eusyce* and *Neomorpha*) chiefly based on habit, leaf, fig, and flowers and further divided the sections into series and subseries. Altogether, he included 207 species and large number of infraspecific taxa in his monumental work. Wherein each species has been elaborately described and illustrated with good quality of line drawings. King (1888) also worked on the Indian *Ficus*, therein he recorded 113 species and 47 infraspecific taxa out of which only 75 species and 16 infraspecific taxa are found in the present political boundaries of India.

Corner (1965, 1967) has given a comprehensive checklist of all the species found in Asia and Australasia. He classified it into subgenera *Pharmacosycea*, *Sycomorous* and *Urostigma* comprising monoecious taxa, whereas subgenus *Ficus* of dioecious taxa. Corner (1965, 1967) classification was followed for describing *Ficus* in *Flora of Malesiana*. Ramirez (1977) disagreed with Corner (1965) and suggested for using fig wasp relationship more in classification. Taxonomic group on African *Ficus* did not accept Corner's classification. Berg (1989) recognized two main groups in *Ficus* based on morphological and functional traits, in particular connection to the unique pollination system by fig wasps. The first group comprises the subgenera *Pharmacosycea* and *Urostigma*, and the second group of subgenera *Ficus*, *Sycidium* and *Sycomorus*. Berg (2003) again divided *Ficus* into six subgenera (*Ficus*, *Synoecia*, *Sycidium*, *Sycomorous*, *Pharmacosycea* and *Urostigma*) based on major differentiating characters like monoecy-dioecy, adventitious roots, stipules, position of figs, bracts, stigmas, and waxy glands.

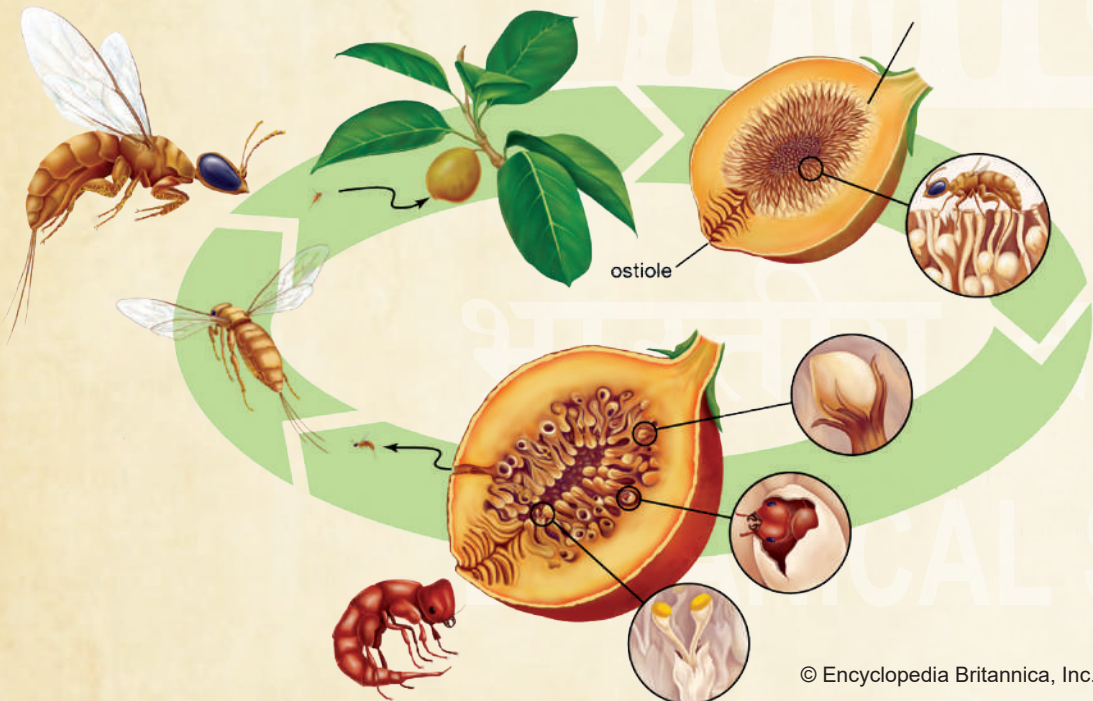
The genus *Ficus* falls within evergreen, semi-evergreen and deciduous species, which takes almost any possible growth form, such as trees of large, medium, and low growth, as well as shrubs, vines, and climbers. On the other hand, several species are epiphytes and hemiepiphytes, while some are rheophytes and some other purely lithophytes. In *Ficus*, pollination is very characteristic phenomenon and is carried out by female wasps that have wings and can leave the syconium.

The genus comprises c. 876 species and is distributed mainly in Tropics & Subtropics (POWO, 2021). 115 taxa (89 species & 26 infraspecific taxa) are reported in India (Chaudhary & al., 2012), while 50 species & 8 varieties (including 14 cultivated taxa) are reported in West Bengal (Upadhyay & Ansari, 2017).

Botanical Description

Habit trees, shrubs, climbers, stranglers, or sometimes woody epiphytes, evergreen or deciduous, with white to yellowish milky latex, rarely aqueous. **Leaves** usually alternate, rarely opposite, simple to lobed, rarely palmate, glabrous or hairy, margin entire or toothed; venation pinnate, sometimes palmately 3–5 nerved at base. **Inflorescence** axillary or on specialized cauliflorous branches. **Flowers** enclosed within fleshy, globose, ellipsoid or obovoid receptacles or fig (**syconium**) communicating with outside through an apical pore or **ostiole** closed by scale like bracts, sessile or pedunculate; involucre bracts usually 3 at base of fig, ovate, glabrous, or hairy; lateral bracts sometimes present on side of fig, scale like, caducous or persistent. Flowers male, female, and gall. **Male flowers:** tepals 2–6; stamens 1–3, straight in bud; pistillode present or absent. **Gall flowers:** like female flowers but never producing seeds and usually occupied by a fig wasp. **Female flowers:** tepals 0–6; ovary free, straight or oblique; styles 1 or 2 and unequal, apical or lateral. **Fruit** a seed like achene, usually enclosed within syncarp formed from an enlarged hollow fleshy receptacle. **Seed** pendulous; endosperm usually scanty; cotyledons equal or unequal, sometimes folded.

A representation of relationship between fig and wasp (Image from Encyclopedia Britannica, 2023).



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1. **Ficus altissima** Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind.: 444. 1825.

Other synonyms: *Ficus altissima* var. *laccifera* (Roxb.) Prain; *Ficus altissima* Blume f. *laccifera* (Roxb.) King; *Ficus laccifera* Roxb.



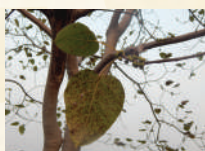
"Kathal bat" (Beng.); "Yokdung" (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: October–April

Darjeeling (Pankabari), Jalpaiguri (N. Duars).

Uses: Aerial roots are used as rough cordage. Inner bark is suitable for paper making. Bark mixed with lime used as dye. Tree is host to lac insect.

Note: Similar to *Ficus benghalensis*, but differs in few or non aerial roots, and leaves usually 3-veined at base.



2. **Ficus arnottiana** (Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 287. 1867. *Urostigma arnottiana* Miq., London J. Bot. 6: 564. 1847.

Flowering & Fruiting: September–March

Howrah (A.J.C.B. Indian Botanic Howrah), North Bengal (Prain, l.c.).

Uses: Leaves and bark extract used in skin diseases.



Note: *F. arnottiana* is commonly mistaken for *F. religiosa* (Peepal) but differs in distinctly cordate, and

7-veined at base while in *F. religiosa* leaves has rounded or broadly rounded cuneate base and 3-veined. Apart from that *F. religiosa* has long caudate acuminate leaf apex in comparison to *F. arnottiana*.



3. **Ficus auriculata** Lour., Fl. Cochinch. 2: 666. 1790.

Other synonym: *Ficus roxburghii* Miq.

"Timla" (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: April–October



Burdhaman (Durgapur), Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Howrah (Cultivated in AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden).

Uses: Fruits edible, used as curry. Bark used as tough fibres. Leaves are used as fodder for elephant and cattle.

Note: Similar to *Ficus oligodon* but differs in leaves broadly ovate, 5-veined at base, and lateral veins forming an acute angle with Midvein.



4. **Ficus benghalensis** L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1059. 1753.

“Bar, Vat” (Beng.). “Kanjikung” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: Almost throughout the year, usually in May–August.



Bankura, Burdhaman, Darjeeling, Howrah (AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden), Kolkata, Malda, Midnapur & West Dinajpur.

Uses: Latex used in inferior quality of rubber production. Lac collected from tree infected by lac insect. A coarse fibre extracted from bark and from aerial roots used as cordage. Latex externally used on pains, bruised, rheumatic pains and lumbago. Latex is used in removal of cornac and gum pain. Young leaves are fodder and used as cups by villagers.



5. **Ficus benamina** L., Mant. Pl. 1: 129. 1767.

Other synonyms: *Urostigma benamina* (L.) Miq.; *Ficus nitida* Thunb.; *Ficus retusa* L. var. *nitida* (Thunb.) Miq.; *Ficus retusa* L. var. *nitida* (Thunb.) Prain

5.1. **Ficus benamina** L. var. **benamina**.

Flowering & Fruiting: October–April

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri (Duars), South 24- Parganas (Sunderbans).

5.2. **Ficus benamina** L. var. **nuda** (Miq.) Barrett, Amer. Midl. Naturalist 45: 127. 1951.

Other synonyms: *Urostigma nudum* Miq.; *Ficus benamina* var. *comosa* (Roxb.) Kurz; *Ficus comosa* Roxb. ; *Ficus nuda* (Miq.) Miq.; *Urostigma benaminum* Miq. var. *nudum* (Miq.) Miq.





"Pakur", "China bot" (Beng.).
Flowering & Fruiting: January–March
24-North Parganas (Barrackpur).



6. **Ficus concinna** (Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavi 3: 286. 1867.

Other synonyms: *Urostigma concinnum* Miq.; *Urostigma parvifolium* Miq.; *Ficus affinis* Wall. ex Kurz; *Ficus glabella* Blume var. *affinis* (Wall. ex Kurz) King; *Ficus glabella* Blume var. *concinna* (Miq.) King

Flowering & Fruiting: April–June.

Jalpaiguri (Jaldapara National Park)

Note: The characteristic features of this species are the leaves with prominent nerves anastomosing along the margin, the figs being sessile, axillary or on younger branchlets and persistent basal bracts.



7. **Ficus conglobata** King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 99, pl. 123. 1888.

Flowering & Fruiting: December

24-Parganas (Takee), Darjeeling.

Note: Similar to *F. hispida* but figs 1–1.5 cm, long-peduncled, almost smooth, borne at the base of stem or below ground level on much-branched leafless bracteate panicles.

Source: www.plantillustrations.org



8. **Ficus curtipes** Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 397. 1959.

Other synonym: *Ficus obtusifolia* Roxb.

Flowering & Fruiting: April–November

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri (Buxa Road borders, W. Duars, Buxa Tiger Reserve).

Notes: The characteristic features of this species is obovate leaves with rounded apex and having glossy and leathery appearance. Figs are paired and sessile.



9. **Ficus cyrtophylla** (Wall. ex Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno Batavum 3: 282. 1867.

Other synonym: *Covellia cyrtophylla* Wall. ex Miq.

Flowering & Fruiting: January–June

Darjeeling.

Note: The leaves of this species are strongly scabrous and asymmetric with long acuminate apex.



10. **Ficus drupacea** Thunb., Ficus: 6: 11. 1786.

Other synonyms: *Ficus drupacea* var. *subrepanda* (Wall. ex King) D. Basu; *Ficus mysorensis* B. Heyne ex Roth var. *subrepanda* Wall. ex King

Flowering & Fruiting: September–March

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Howrah (A.J.C.B. Indian Botanic Garden).

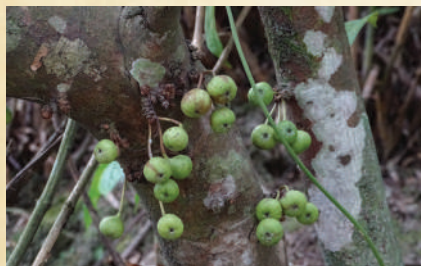
Notes: The Figs are yellow orange in colour when mature. The most favourite food of many birds. Figs are paired and sessile.



11. **Ficus fistulosa** Reinw. ex Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 470. 1825.

Flowering & Fruiting: March–July

Darjeeling (Terai), Jalpaiguri, Howrah (Planted in A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden).



Notes: Similar to *F. sarmentosa* but differs in an erect shrub or small tree, and leaves elliptic-oblongate & glabrous while *F. sarmentosa* is a climbing shrub, and leaves ovate-elliptic & at least pubescent beneath.



12. **Ficus fulva** Reinw. ex Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 478. 1825.

Flowering & Fruiting: September–November

Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar (Buxa Tiger Reserve).

Notes: Similar to *Ficus hirta* in appearance but differs in entire leaves and shortly peduncled figs.



13. **Ficus geniculata** Kurz, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 42(2): 105. 1873.

Flowering & Fruiting: March–September

Alipurduar, Howrah, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri.

Uses: The scale leaves are used as vegetables.

Notes: The figs are red tubercled and the leaves are long petioled with undulated margins.



14. **Ficus glaberrima** Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 451. 1825.

Other synonym: *Urostigma glaberrima* Miq.

“Om-shing or Rongzhee-kung” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: January–June

Darjeeling (Kurseong).

Notes: Sometimes fig attacked by insect and becomes 3–4 times enlarged.

Source: www.plantillustrations.org



15. **Ficus hederacea** Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3: 538. 1832.

Other synonym: *Ficus scandens* Roxb.

“Parkat-Dumar” (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: February–June

Darjeeling, Jalpainguri, Howrah (Cultivated in A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden).

Notes: A climbing ficus found in forests of Buxa Tiger reserve, Alipurduar.



16. **Ficus heterophylla** L.f., Suppl. Pl.: 442. 1782 (1781).
Other synonyms: *Ficus heterophylla* var. *scabrella* (Roxb.) King; *Ficus scabrella* Roxb.

16.1. **Ficus heterophylla** L.f. var. **heterophylla**.

“Bellam-dumar”, “Gaorisheora”, “Ghoti-sheora” (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: February– July

Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad and 24-Parganas.

16.2. **Ficus heterophylla** L.f. var. **assamica** (Miq.) Corner ex Chater in Enum. Fl. Pl. Nepal 3: 210. 1982; Grierson & D.G. Long, Fl. Bhutan 1(1): 92. 1983.

Other synonyms: *Ficus assamica* Miq.; *Ficus heterophylla* L.f. var. *repens* Willd.

“Bhui-Dumar”

Flowering & Fruiting: March–August

Darjeeling.



17. **Ficus hirta** Vahl, Enum. Pl. 2: 201. 1806.

Other synonyms: *Ficus hirsuta* Roxb.; *Ficus roxburghii* Miq.; *Ficus hirta* Vahl var. *roxburghii* (Miq.) King

“Ban-duma”, “Dangra”, “Khana-dumar” (Beng.); “Dechu-kung” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: April–June

Darjeeling (Kalimpong), Jalpaiguri.

Notes: Similar to *F. fulva* but differs in prominently lobed leaves on mature twigs, flower pedicels glabrous, and achenes smooth.



18. **Ficus hispida** L.f., Suppl. Pl.: 442. 1782 (1781).

Other synonyms: *Ficus oppositifolia* Roxb.; *Gonosuke hispida* (L. f.) Raf.; *Covellia hispida* (L. f.) Miq.

“Dumar”, “Kako-dumur”, “Jag-dumar” (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: June–September

Uses: Figs are sold in markets as a vegetable. Eaten after fry.

Notes: The plant is weedy in nature and identified easily by its scabrous and opposite pair of leaves.



Source: www.planfillustrations.org

19. **Ficus hookeriana** Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 378. 1960 (1959)

Other synonym: *Ficus hookeri* Miq.

Flowering & Fruiting: June–September

Darjeeling (Kurseong).

Notes: The species consists very large and prominent stipules which leads confusion with *Ficus elastica*. But in *Ficus hookeriana* leaves have 6-9 pairs of secondary veins while *Ficus elastica* have numerous and closely parallel veins.



Source: www.planfillustrations.org

20. **Ficus laevis** Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 437. 1825

20.1. **F. laevis** var. **laevis**

Flowering & Fruiting: January – May

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri.

20.2. **Ficus laevis** Blume var. **assamica** Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno Batavum 3: 293. 1867.

Other synonyms: *Pogonotrophe assamica* Miq.; *Ficus laevis* Blume var. *assamica* King

Flowering & Fruiting: August–November

Jalpaiguri.

Notes: The var. *assamica* is reported from Gorumara National Park, only in West Bengal till now. It is very scarce/rare in occurrence in the state.



Source: www.planfillustrations.org

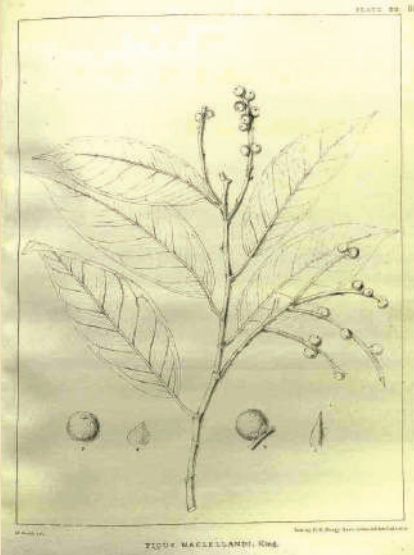
21. **Ficus lamponga** Miq., Fl. Ned. Ind., Eerste Bijv. 3: 431. 1860

Other synonym: *Ficus lepidosa* Wall. ex Kurz.

Flowering & Fruiting: September–January

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri (Duars).

Notes: It is popularly known as Lampung fig (named after Lampung, Sumatra). In Assam, the pork is cooked with the leaves of this species.



22. **Ficus maclellandii** King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 52, pl. 64. 1888.

Other synonyms: *Ficus rhododendrifolia* (Miq.) Miq.; *Ficus maclellandii* King var. *rhododendrifolia* Corner.

Flowering & Fruiting: September–February

Western Duars (Chokeubos), in subtropical forest of North Bengal (A.M. Cowan & Cowan, l.c.).

Notes: A house plant which has very unique characters of dimorphic leaves. Long narrow leaves on basal part and broad leaves on apical branches.

Source: www.plantillustrations.org



23. **Ficus microcarpa** L.f., Suppl. Pl.: 442. 1782 (1781).

Other synonym: *Ficus retusa* L. sensu King

“Kamrup” (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: March–September

Bankura (Jhilmili forest), Darjeeling (Kalimpong), Howrah (Planted at A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden), Midnapore (Kankrajhore forest) & Purulia.

Notes: This species is used as bonsai plant. It is very demanding among bonsai lovers.



24. **Ficus mollis** Vahl, Symb. Bot. 1: 82. 1790.

Other synonym: *Ficus tomentosa* Roxb. ex Willd.

Flowering & Fruiting: March–August

Bankura, Purulia.

Notes: The figs are small and densely tomentose with creamy white hairs.



Source: www.plantillustrations.org

25. **Ficus neriifolia** Sm. in Rees, Cycl. 14: Ficus no. 21. 1810;

Other synonyms: *Ficus nemoralis* Wall. ex Miq. var. *gemella* (Wall. ex Miq.) King; *Ficus nemoralis* var. *trilepis* (Miq.) King; *Ficus neriifolia* var. *nemoralis* (Wall. ex Miq.) Corner; *Ficus nemoralis* var. *fieldingii* (Miq.) King; *Ficus neriifolia* var. *fieldingii* (Miq.) Corner

“Dudhia” (Beng.); “Dudila” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: January–November

Darjeeling (Sonada).

Use: The leaves are used for fodder.



26. **Ficus nervosa** B. Heyne ex Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp.: 388. 1821

Other synonyms: *Ficus angustifolia* Roxb.; *Urostigma nervosum* (B. Heyne ex Roth) Miq.

Flowering & Fruiting: September–May

Darjeeling, A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah (Cultivated), Jalpaiguri (Gorumora National Park).



27. **Ficus oligodon** Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavum 3: 234, 297. 1867

Other synonym: *Ficus pomifera* Wall. ex King

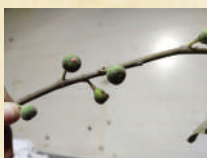
“Tchongtay-kung” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: December–March

Darjeeling (Mongpu, Kurseong).

Use: Receptacle edible.

Notes: Similar to *Ficus auriculata* but differs in leaves suborbicular, 3-veined at base, and lateral veins more arched and forming a more obtuse angle with midrib.



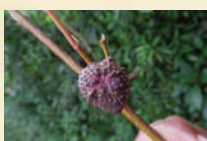
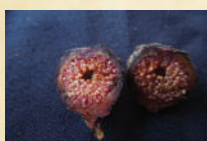
28. **Ficus palmata** Forssk. subsp. **virgata** (Roxb.) Browicz, Fl. Iranica 153: 12. 1982.

Other synonyms: *Ficus virgata* Roxb.; *Ficus palmata sensu* King non Forssk.

Flowering & Fruiting: February–July

Western Bengal.

Notes: The morphology of leaves of this subspecies is highly variable. It ranges from orbicular to reniform, elliptic to broadly ovate, entire to palmati-lobed or 3-lobed.



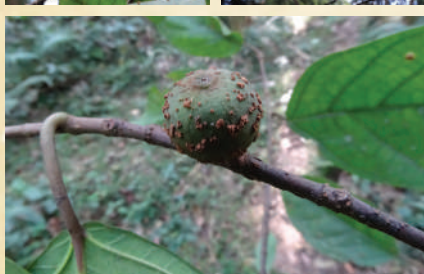
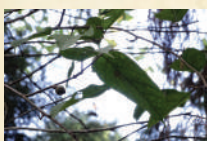
29. **Ficus prostrata** (Wall. ex Miq.) Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno Batavum 3: 297. 1867

Other synonym: *Covellia prostrata* Wall. ex Miq.

Flowering & Fruiting: March–September

Darjeeling, Howrah (cultivated in A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden), Jalpaiguri (Buxa and Duars).

Notes: This species is characterised by its tubercled figs borne on specialized branches emerges from trunk.



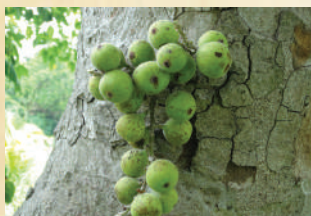
30. **Ficus pubigera** (Wall. ex Miq.) Kurz var. **maliformis** (King) Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 18: 6. 1960.

Other synonym: *Ficus foveolata* (Wall. ex Miq.) Wall. ex Miq. var. *maliformis* King.

Flowering & Fruiting: May–October

Darjeeling

Notes: A large scandent shrub. Wood of this species used as fuel.



31. **Ficus racemosa** L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1060. 1753

Other synonyms: *Covellia glomerata* Miq.; *Ficus lanceolata* Buch.-Ham. ex Roxb.



31.1. **Ficus racemosa** L. var. **racemosa**.

“Jagya Dumar” (Beng.); “Gular” (Hind.).

Flowering & Fruiting: February–October

Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum (Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary), Darjeeling, Hoogly, Howrah (A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden), Kolkata, Malda and Purulia.



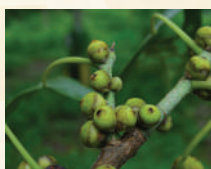
31.2. **Ficus racemosa** var. **elongata** (King) M.F. Barrett, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 73: 323. 1948.

Other synonym: *Ficus glomerata* var. *elongata* King

Flowering & Fruiting: February–September

Darjeeling.

Uses: Latex cure ear inflammation. Roots used in hydrophobia. Figs used in blood diseases.



32. **Ficus religiosa** L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1059. 1753.

Other synonym: *Urostigma religiosum* (L.) Gasp.

“Ashwatha”, “Peepul” (Beng.).



Flowering & Fruiting: February – July

Throughout the state.

Uses: Juice of leaves and young parts used as purgative and in skin diseases. Leaves used as fodder. Infusion of leaves used in the treatment of ulcers. Tree as a host of lac insect. Wood used in packing boxes. Aqueous extract of bark shows antibacterial activity.



33. **Ficus rumphii** Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 437. 1825

Other synonym: *Urostigma rumphii* (Blume) Miq.

“Gaiswata”, “Pakur” (Beng.); “Pakar”, “Pilkhan” (Hindi)



Flowering & Fruiting: December–April

Bankura, Darjeeling, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore, South 24 Parganas (Sundarbans).

Uses: Tree is host of lac insect. Leaves used as fodder. Figs used as vegetable. Latex and fruit emetic and anthelmintic also used in asthma.

Notes: Usually confused with *F. religiosa* but differs in not having abruptly, long caudate acuminate apex and figs turns blackish on maturity.



Source: www.plantillustrations.org

34. **Ficus sarmentosa** Buch.-Ham. ex Sm. in Rees, Cycl. 14: Ficus no. 45. 1810.

Other synonyms: *Ficus foveolata* (Wall. ex Miq.) Wall. ex Miq.; *Pogonotrophe foveolata* Wall. ex Miq..

Flowering & Fruiting: February–June

Darjeeling (Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary).

Notes: The occurrence of the species in the state is very rare.



35. **Ficus semicordata** Buch.-Ham. ex Sm. in Rees, Cycl. 14: no. 71. 1810.

“Jog-dumur”, “Kuruli”, “Parah” (Beng.); “Songsorkung”, “Tungshee-kung” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: January–December

Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri (Buxa Duar), Howrah (cultivated A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden), Purulia (Ajodhya hills).

Notes: Semicordate leaf base is the striking identifying character of the species. The figs are borne on specialized branches emerges from trunk.



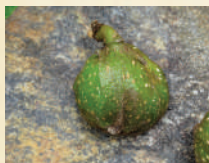
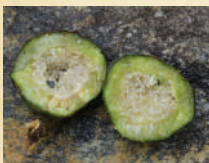
36. **Ficus squamosa** Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3: 531. 1832.

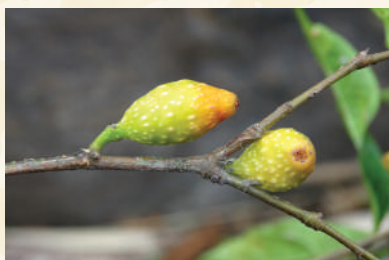
Other synonym: *Ficus saemocarpa* Miq.

“Mangtycol” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: March–May

Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri (Along the river banks)





37. **Ficus subincisa** Buch.-Ham. ex Sm. in Rees, Cycl. 14: Ficus no. 91. 1810.

Other synonyms: *Ficus clavata* Wall. ex Miq.; *Ficus subincisa* var. *paucidentata* (Miq.) Corner; *Ficus trachycarpa* var. *paucidentata* Miq.

“Seyet-pe” (Lepcha).

Flowering & Fruiting: January–April
Darjeeling.

Uses: Leaves used as fodder but give a skin disease to calves.



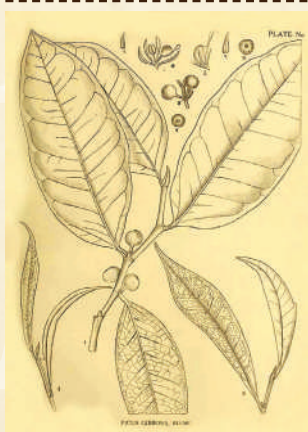
38. **Ficus subulata** Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 9: 461. 1825.

Other synonym: *Ficus sikkimensis* Miq.

Flowering & Fruiting: March–October
Darjeeling

Notes: The specific epithet “subulata” referring to needle-like shape of the stipule which is one of the diagnostic character of the species.

Source: www.planfillustrations.org



39. **Ficus tinctoria** G. Forst. subsp. **parasitica** (Willd.) Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 17: 476. 1959

Other synonyms: *Ficus parasitica* Willd.; *Ficus gibbosa* var. *parasitica* (Willd.) King; *Ficus gibbosa* var. *cuspidifera* (Miq.) King.

Flowering & Fruiting: January–May
Darjeeling, Purulia (Karywar hills).

Uses: Rough leaves used for polishing ivory and sandal wood. Leaves used as fodder.

Source: www.planfillustrations.org



40. **Ficus virens** Aiton, Hort. Kew. 3: 451.1789;

Other synonyms: *Ficus infectoria* Roxb.; *Ficus infectoria* Roxb. var. *lambertiana* (Miq.) King.

“Pakur” (Beng.).

Flowering & Fruiting: April–August

All most throughout state.

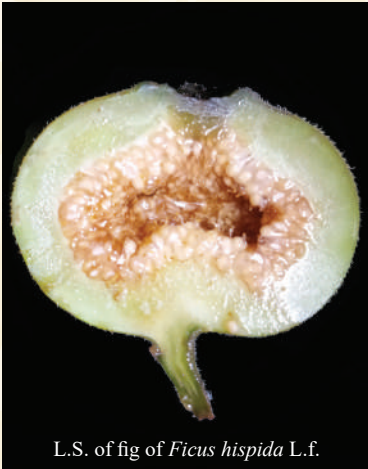
Uses: The leaves are used as fodder.



A woman selling the figs of *Ficus hispida* L.f. @ ₹ 10/- per 100 gm in the local market at Howrah



An iconic tree of *Ficus benghalensis* L. at A.J.C. Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, West Bengal. It is popularly known as “Great Banyan Tree” which is more than 250 years old.



L.S. of fig of *Ficus hispida* L.f.



Female flowers arranged inside the fig of *Ficus hispida* L.f.



A female flower of *Ficus hispida* L.f.



The Prop Roots of *Ficus benghalensis* L.: Adventitious roots that support the arial branches.

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