

# *Crateva religiosa* G. Forst.

**Synonyms** : *Crateva nulvara*

**Family** : Capparidaceae

**Group** : Diuretic/renal protectant

**Parts Used** : Bark, Stem

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Three leaved caper

Malayalam : Nirmathalam

Hindi : Barna

Sanskrit : Varunah

Assamese : Barna, Barnahi

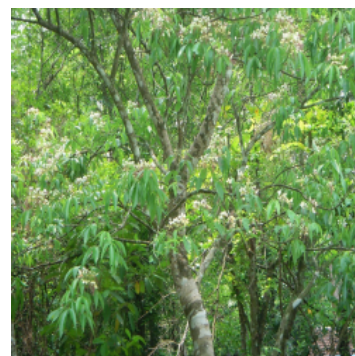
Bengali : Barun

Gujarathi : Varno

Kannada : Bilpatri

Tamil : Narvala

Telugu : Urumatti



**Distribution and habitat:** Throughout India, especially along river banks.

**Botany:** A small tree with a much branched head.

• **Leaves:** Deciduous, 3 foliate; petioles 3.8-7.6 cm long; leaflets 5-15 x 3.8-6.3 cm, ovate, lanceolate or obovate, acute or acuminate, attenuate at the base, entire, glabrous on both surfaces, pale beneath and reticulately veined, the lateral leaflets oblique at the base; petiolules 6-9 mm long.

• **Flower:** Many in dense terminal corymbs, greenish white; pedicels 2.5-4.4 cm long stout, glabrous. Sepals petaloid, smooth, distant, ovate, acute. Petals (including the claw) nearly 2.5 x 0.9 cm; claw up to 6 mm long, very narrow. Stamens longer than the petals, spreading. Gynophore nearly 5cm long, terete, smooth. Ovary ellipsoid; stigma flat. The filaments of the stamens are purple or white when young, lilac when old; the gynophore is lilac; the sepals green when young, yellow or pale pink when old; the petals whitish when young, yellowish when old.

• **Fruit:** Globose or ovoid, woody, smooth or scurfy berry, on the thickened gynophore.

• **Seeds:** Imbedded in pulp, nearly smooth, brown.

**Properties:** It is astringent, bitter, acrid, diuretic, anthelmintic, carminative, laxative and stomachic

**Chemical constituents:** Lauric, stearic, undecylic, oleic, and linolinic acid from root bark. Ceryl alcohol, lupeol, friedelin, betulinic acid and diosgenin, saponin and tannin from bark. Fruit- cetyl alcohol, ceryl alcohol, triacontane, triacontanol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, and glucocapparin,. Leaves -1-stachy drine.

**Uses:** Increase secretion of bile, used in baldness, sores, epididymitis and hydrocele.

**Formulations:** Dhanvantaram ghrtam

**Propagation:** Cuttings.

