

Limonia acidissima Linn.

Family : Rutaceae

Parts Used : Fruit , Leaf, Bark, Gum

Vernacular Names

English : Elephant apple

Malayalam : Vilarmaram, Vilavu

Hindi : Katbel

Sanskrit : Kapitthah

Kannada : Bela

Tamil : Vilankay maram

Telugu : Velagapandu.



Distribution and Habitat: Found throughout India.

Botany: A moderate sized to fairly large glabrous deciduous tree, armed with strong, straight, axillary spines, having a much branched dense crown of dark foliage and dark grey longitudinally furrowed rough wrinkled bark.

• **Leaves:** Compound, imparipinnate, alternate, rachis narrowly winged, leaflets 3-7, obovate, crenulate, tip often notched, gland dotted.

• **Flowers:** Small, fragrant, dull red, polygamous in lateral and terminal pubescent panicles.

• **Fruits:** Globose, woody, rough, grey coloured berries, seeds oblong, compressed, embedded in the pulp.

• The gum obtained from the trunk and branches of the tree after the rainy season is known as “Feronia gum” with reddish brown to pale yellow colour.

Properties: Antiscorbutic, antibilious, demulcent.

Chemical constituents: Geranyl umbeliferone and bergapten

Uses: vitiated conditions of pitta, gastropathy, anorexia, vomiting, hiccough, cardiac debility

Pharyngodynia, pruritus, gingivitis, tumours, ulcers, anorexia, gastropathy, haemorrhoids, diabetes, dysentery

Propagation: By seeds

