

Nimba (*Azadirachta indica* Juss)

Family - Meliaceae (Refer appendix-II for family features)

Synonyms

Hingu niryasa , Arishta , Krimighna , Niyamana , Paribhadra , Pichumarda , Sutikta , Vartikta

External Morphology

Habit-A large tree

Root-Tap root and branched

Stem-Woody, branched solid, erect and cylindrical.

Leaf - Compound, alternate, imparipinnate, exstipulate, pinnae are lanceolate, oblique, serrate, acuminate with unicostate reticulate venation.

Inflorescence- Axillary panicle

Flower - Actinomorphic, bisexual, complete, bracteate, pedicellate, hypogynous, sepals are 5 and gamosepalous, petals are 5, polypetalous and white in colour, stamens are 10, Gynoecium: Tricarpellary, syncarpous, superior ovary.

Fruit-Drupaceous with one seed.

Flowering - February-April

Fruiting - May-June (- July)

Useful part-Patra (Leaf), Twak (Bark), Bija (Seed), Phala (Fruit), Pushpa (Flow-ers) and Niryasa (Resin).

Habitat & Distribution -

Nimba (Neem) tree grows all over India. It is commonly planted as avenue trees.



Azadirachta indica being a hard species, is found throughout India in all kinds of soils. It is also planted as avenue tree and about temples of various Hindu Gods and Masjids revered by the Muslim community.

The tree is also found in Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Also, introduced into Australia where it is thriving well.

Rasadi panchaka

Rasa - Tikta Kashaya

Guna -Laghu Ruksha

Vipaka -Katu

Virya -Shita

Varieties

1. Nimba
2. Mahanimba
3. Parvata Nimba (Aralu)
4. Akasha Nimba

Karma (Actions)

Patra (Leaf) -Krimighna, Netrya, Vishaghna, Kushthagha, Ruchikara, Vranaghna, Kasahara and Shwasahara.

Twak (Bark) -Kushthagha, Krimighna, Shramahara, Trishnahara, Jwaraghna, Chardighna, Kandughna, Pramehahara, Ruchikara, Shothahara and Rakta Shodhaka.

Phala (Fruit) -Kushthagha, Arshoghna, Krimighna, Bhedana, Mehahara and Gulmanashaka.

Pushpa (Flower) -Krimighna, Vishaghna

Bija (Seed) -Krimighna and Kushthagha

Doshakarma (Action on Dosha)

Pitta kapha Shamaka, Pitta Shamaka due to its Shitavirya and Tikta Kashaya rasa Kaphahara due to Katu vipaka and Tikta Kashaya rasa.

Therapeutic Indications - Kushtha, Prameha, Krimi, Kasa, Jwara, Vrana, Chardi, Hrillasa, Aruchi, Trishna, Shrama, Gulma, Arshas.

Amayika Prayoga(Therapeutic uses) - Krimi (Abdominal worm infestation) - Juice of the leaves of Nimba mixed with honey is an excellent anthelmintic. (Bhavaprakasha)

Udarda & Shitapitta (Urticaria) - Regular use of the leaves of Nimba and Amalaki (fruit) mixed with ghee alleviates urticaria and other skin diseases.(Vrinda)

Kushtha (Skin disorder) - Intake of Haritaki and Nimba or Nimba and Amalaki for a month overcomes all types of Kushtha.(Gadanigraha)

Prameha - Decoction of Nimba is the specif-ic remedy in Surameha. (Sushruta)

Padminikantaka - Anointment of the paste of Nimba and Aragvadha is useful. (Sushruta)
Specific formulations- Nimbadi churna, Nimbarishta, Nimbaharidrakhand.

Grahya Laxana (Genuine Characteristics):

Leaf-Pinnately branched leaves with ovate lanceolate, subfalcate and bluntly serrate leaflets having an acute apex, measuring upto 5 cm in length and 1.5 cm in breadth. The leaves are upto 50 cm long clustered at the end of the branches, which also bear bunches of lilac flowers in terminal panicles. Leaflets when fresh are bright green but turn greyish on drying. Has got disagreeable odor. Taste is very bitter.

Bark-Bark is Channelled or quilled pieces of tough and fibrous bark ranging from 3 mm to 10 mm in thickness. Outer surface is greyish brown to black in colour, rough, scaly, irregularly fissured, especially in the bark obtained from older stems. Inner surface is creamish in colour, conspicuously laminated and coarsely fibrous. Transversely cut portion shows a smooth, minutely chequered surface. On breaking becomes fibrous, has got bitter and astringent taste.