

Bauhinia purpurea

Scientific name: *Bauhinia purpurea*.

Local name: purple bauhinia, camel's foot, butterfly tree, and Hawaiian orchid tree.

Family: Fabaceae.

MORPHOLOGY:

Stem: *Bauhinia purpurea* is a small to medium-size deciduous tree growing to 17 feet tall.

Leaf: The leaves are 10–20 centimetres long and broad, rounded, and bilobed at the base and apex.

Flower: The flowers are conspicuous, pink, and fragrant, with five petals.

Inflorescence: Raceme

Fruit: The fruit is a pod 30 centimetres long, containing 12 to 16 seeds.

CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS:

A wide range of chemical compounds have been isolated from *Bauhinia purpurea* including 5,6-dihydroxy-7-methoxyflavone 6-*O*- β -D-xylopyranoside, bis [3',4'-dihydroxy-6-methoxy-7,8-furano-5',6'-mono-methylalloxy]-5-C-5-biflavonyl and (4'-hydroxy-7-methyl 3-C- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-5-C-5-(4'-hydroxy-7-methyl-3-C- α -D-glucopyranosyl) bioflavonoid, bibenzyls, dibenzoxepins, mixture of phytol fatty esters, lutein, β -sitosterol, isoquercitin and astragalin.

DISTRIBUTION:

E. Asia - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand.

In India it is distributed in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh.

PARTS OF THE PLANT USED:

Root, flower and bark.

MEDICINAL USES:

- This plant is used traditionally in dropsy, pain, rheumatism, convulsions, delirium, and septicemia.
- The bark of the plant is used as an astringent in the treatment of diarrhea.
- The bark, roots and flowers, when mixed with rice-water, are used in poultice form as a maturant.

