

Morus indica

Morus indica is a member of the genus *Morus*, of the family of flowering plants Moraceae, commonly known as the mulberry family. As with other mulberries, *Morus indica* is a deciduous tree.[1] *Morus indica* is native to the temperate and sub-tropical Himalayan region. It is currently cultivated in India, China, Japan, and East Africa.[2]

Morus indica, as with other members of the mulberry family, is often described as either a small tree or a shrub, rarely exceeding 10–15 metres (33–49 feet). When young, the branches are covered in fine, soft hairs known as; however, the plant loses these hair as they grow older. The branches are a light gray-brown color.[2]

The leaves range from 4–12.5 centimetres (1+1/2–5 inches) long and 2.5–7.5 cm (1–3 in) wide, and are attached to the tree via petioles. The leaves themselves are usually ovate but sometimes lobed, coming to a narrow point, making them somewhere between caudate and acuminate. The leaves are retuse to slightly cordate, having a small lobe at the base. They are shortly serrated, with each tooth narrowing to a thin point, making them apiculate. The leaf colour is dark green, with a paler underside covered in fine hairs.[2]

Morus indica is a monoecious flowering plant, having male and female flowers growing on the same tree, although often on distinct branches. The male inflorescence is narrow, between 9–11.5 millimetres (3/8–7/16 in) long, and covered in fine hairs. The female flowers are subglobose, or just shy of spherical. They measure 6–9.5 mm (1/4–3/8 in) long. The stigma of these flowers is about 3.5 mm long with dense, short hair.

The female flower, after being fertilized, forms a fleshy compound fruit known as a syncarp. This syncarp, which is black when fully ripe, looks like that of *Morus nigra*, commonly known as a black mulberry.[2]

Morus indica is often grown for its medicinal properties. As with most berries, the mulberries of *M. indica* have potent antioxidant properties.[3] The primary medicinal use of *M. indica* is as a method of regulating blood glucose levels in diabetic patients. Multiple studies in humans and mice have found that the use of *M. indica* lowered the blood glucose levels of diabetics through multiple different pathways.[3][4][5]

