

Schefflera arboricola

Scientific classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Clade	: Angiosperms
Order	: Apiales
Family	: Araliaceae
Genus	: <i>Schefflera</i>
Species	: <i>S. arboricola</i>



Schefflera arboricola

Description

It is an evergreen shrub growing to 8–9 m tall, free-standing, or clinging to the trunks of other trees as an epiphyte. The leaves are palmately compound, with 7–9 leaflets, the leaflets 9–20 cm long and 4–10 cm broad (though often smaller in cultivation) with a wedge-shaped base, entire margin, and an obtuse or acute apex, sometimes emarginate. The leaves are leathery in texture, shiny green glabrous on the upper surface and somewhat lighter and matte on the underside. Young plants have smaller leaves and fewer leaflets. Each leaflet has a central rib that divides it into two halves, with between four and six ribs clearly visible up to the third order. The stipules merge with the petiole, the length of which is 12–15 cm

The flowers are produced in a 20 cm panicle of small umbels, each umbel 7–10 mm diameter with 5–10 flowers. The flowering period extends from midsummer to early autumn. The flowers are hermaphroditic, having a colour ranging from yellow to green and a double perianth radial symmetry.

Medicinal uses

- The bark is used in decoction for coughs and colds.
- The resin of the plant is used as a poultice for healing sores, wounds and cuts.
- The leaves, in decoction, are effective in the prevention or relief of scurvy.