

## *Aegle marmelos*

### Classification

Kingdom : Plantae  
Order : Sapindales  
Family : Rutaceae  
Genus : *Aegle*  
Species : *A. marmelos*



*Aegle marmelos*

### DESCRIPTION:

*Aegle marmelos* Correa (Figure 20.1), commonly known as Bilva or Sripthal or Shivadruma (the tree of shiva) in Sanskrit, Bel or Bael in Hindi, and as wood apple, stone apple, Bengal quince, golden apple, Japanese bitter orange, stone apple Indian quince, holy fruit or golden apple in English, is an important medicinal tree in India. It is present in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, and Malesia as a naturalized species.

Tree to 12 m tall, deciduous; branchlets cylindric, sometimes slightly angled, glabrous; spines axillary, solitary or paired, straight, stout and sharp. Leaves alternate-3-foliolate, sometimes 5-foliolate, dimorphic; petioles terete to 6 cm long, glabrous or puberulous when young; leaflets subsessile, ovate-elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, oblique at base, shallowly crenate-serrate at margin, tapering at apex, membranous, pellucid-punctate, pale green. Inflorescences axillary and terminal, racemose or corymbose, few-flowered, 4-5 cm long; peduncles densely puberulent; pedicels 2-4 mm long. Flowers bisexual, greenish white or yellow, fragrant. Calyx cupular, finely puberulent, caducous; lobes 4 or 5, 3-angled. Petals 5, ovate-oblong, subequal, ca 12 x 6 mm, spreading, glabrous, fleshy and white. Stamens numerous in 2 or 3 series, free or basally subconnate, unequal; filaments subulate, ca 7 mm long, glandular; anthers linear-oblong, ca 8 mm long. Disc glabrous, greenish. Ovary ovoid, 4-5 mm long, faintly ridged, 10-loculed; ovules many, 2-seriate; style short; stigma oblong, longitudinally grooved. Berries ovoid, 6-10 cm across, woody, yellowish, many seeded; seeds oblong and flat.

### MEDICINAL USES:

Extensive experimental and clinical studies prove that *Aegle marmelos* possesses antidiarrhoeal, antimicrobial, antiviral, radioprotective, anticancer, chemopreventive, antipyretic, ulcer healing, antigenotoxic, diuretic, antifertility and anti-inflammatory properties.