

Scientific Name:

Ficus racemosa

Common Name:

- Fig Tree
- Cluster Fig
- Gular Fig
- Java Fig

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A medium to large deciduous tree that can reach heights of 10-20 meters. The tree often has a wide, spreading canopy and can develop multiple trunks.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are simple, alternate, and elliptical to ovate, measuring 10-20 cm in length. They are dark green, glossy, and have prominent veins. The leaves are leathery and can be slightly hairy on the underside.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small and unisexual, found within the syconium (the fleshy fig structure), making them inconspicuous. The tree is often pollinated by specific species of wasps.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small fig, typically round or oval, measuring about 2-3 cm in diameter. The figs are green when unripe, turning purple or dark brown when mature. They grow in clusters along the branches and can be borne on the trunk (cauliflory).
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth and grayish-brown, becoming rougher as the tree matures.

Cultural Importance:

- *Ficus racemosa* holds cultural significance in various regions, particularly in India, where it is often associated with Hindu rituals and is considered sacred. The tree is sometimes planted near temples and in other spiritual locations.
- In traditional medicine, the tree is valued for its therapeutic properties, with different parts used in herbal remedies.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The tree is often planted for shade and decorative purposes in parks and gardens, valued for its lush foliage and unique fruiting habit.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Different parts of the tree, including leaves, bark, and fruit, have been used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments, including digestive issues, inflammation, and skin diseases.
- **Culinary:**
 - The ripe figs are edible and can be consumed fresh or used in various dishes, although they are not as widely eaten as other fig varieties.
- **Ecological:**

- The tree is important for local wildlife, providing food and habitat. The figs are a food source for birds and mammals, making the tree beneficial for biodiversity.
- **Cultural:**
 - The tree is often used in local customs and rituals, symbolizing fertility and prosperity in some cultures.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A medium to large tree with a broad, spreading canopy and multiple trunks, displaying clusters of figs along the branches.
- **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, and elliptical to ovate, dark green leaves with prominent veins and a leathery texture.
- **Flower:** Small, inconspicuous flowers that are found within the syconium, typically not visible.
- **Fruit:** Small, round figs in clusters, green when unripe, turning purple or dark brown when ripe.
- **Bark:** Smooth and grayish-brown, becoming rougher and more textured as the tree matures.

