

## Scientific Name:

*Ziziphus mauritiana*

## Common Name:

- Indian Jujube
- Ber
- Chinese Apple

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A medium-sized, deciduous tree that typically grows to a height of 3-10 meters, with a rounded crown and thorny branches. The tree can spread up to 6-10 meters wide.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are small, simple, and ovate to elliptic, measuring about 2-7 cm long and 1-3 cm wide. They are glossy green with a smooth margin and have a distinct vein pattern. The leaves are arranged alternately on the branches.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are small, yellow-green, and fragrant, borne in axillary clusters. Each flower has five petals and typically blooms in the summer, attracting various pollinators, including bees.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a drupe, typically oval or round, measuring about 1-3 cm in diameter. It is initially green, turning yellow to reddish-brown when ripe. The fruit has a sweet, edible pulp and contains one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is grayish-brown and rough, often with a scaly texture, and may have small thorns on the branches.

## Cultural Importance:

- *Ziziphus mauritiana* is culturally significant in many regions, especially in South Asia and Africa. The fruit is a traditional food source and is often consumed fresh, dried, or used to make jams and beverages.
- In some cultures, the tree is considered sacred, and its fruits are used in religious rituals.

## Uses:

- **Culinary:**
  - The fruit is widely consumed fresh, dried, or used to make jams, jellies, and drinks. It is rich in vitamins and minerals, making it a nutritious snack.
- **Medicinal:**
  - Various parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine for their purported health benefits, including treating digestive issues, fever, and skin problems.
- **Wood:**

- The wood is hard and durable, used for making furniture, tools, and agricultural implements.
- Forage:
  - The leaves are used as fodder for livestock, particularly in arid regions.

### Picture Description:

- **Whole Tree:** A medium-sized tree with a rounded crown, thorny branches, and small clusters of yellow-green flowers.
- **Leaves:** Small, ovate to elliptic leaves measuring about 2-7 cm long, glossy green with a smooth margin.
- **Flower:** Small, yellow-green, fragrant flowers borne in axillary clusters, typically blooming in the summer.
- **Fruit:** Oval or round drupes measuring about 1-3 cm in diameter, turning yellow to reddish-brown when ripe, with sweet, edible pulp.
- **Bark:** Grayish-brown bark that is rough and scaly, often with small thorns on the branches.

