

Artocarpus heterophyllus: The Jackfruit



Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Rosales

Family: Moraceae

Genus: Artocarpus

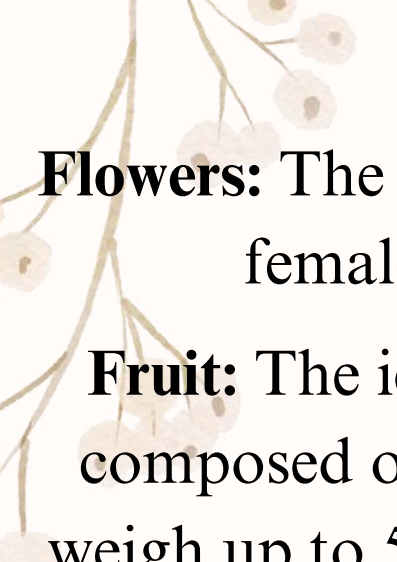
Species: *A. heterophyllus*

Artocarpus heterophyllus is a tropical evergreen tree primarily recognized for producing the world's largest treeborne fruit the jackfruit. Native to the rainforests of the Western Ghats in India, it has been cultivated for centuries and is now widely grown in tropical regions worldwide.

Characteristic Features

Size: A large, evergreen tree, typically reaching heights of 2030 meters.

Leaves: Large, leathery leaves that can be either simple or lobed.



Flowers: The tree is monoecious, bearing both male and female flowers in the same inflorescence.

Fruit: The iconic jackfruit, a massive multiple fruit composed of hundreds of individual flowers. It can weigh up to 50 kg and measure up to 90 cm in length.

Uses

Food: The jackfruit is a versatile fruit with edible pulp, seeds, and young leaves. The pulp is consumed fresh, cooked, or canned. The seeds can be roasted or boiled.

Timber: The wood is strong and durable, used for furniture, construction, and musical instruments.

Medicinal: Various parts of the tree, including the leaves, bark, and fruit, have been used in traditional medicine for treating various ailments.

Fodder: The leaves and young fruits are used as fodder for livestock.

