Ficus elastica

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Tracheophytes

Order: Rosales Family: Moraceae

Genus: Ficus

Species: F. elastica

Scientific Name: Ficus elastica



Ficus elastica, commonly known as the rubber fig, rubber tree, or Indian rubber bush, is referred to by various names in different Indian languages::

Hindi: Rubber fig, Rubber plant

Tamil: Cimaiyal

Malayalam: Inthyan Rabbar

Telugu: Rabbara Kannada: Rabbara

Marathi: Rabar

Uses:

1. Ornamental Uses:

Commonly grown as an indoor plant due to its attractive, glossy leaves and easy maintenance.

Used in landscaping and as a decorative plant in offices and homes.

2. Industrial Uses:

Historically, latex from the tree was used to produce rubber before Hevea brasiliensis became the primary source of natural rubber.

The latex is sometimes used in local crafts and for minor industrial applications.

3. Environmental Uses:

Acts as a natural air purifier by absorbing pollutants from the air.

Provides shade and adds greenery to urban environments.

4. Medicinal Uses:

In traditional medicine, various parts of the plant are used to treat ailments such as cuts, wounds, and inflammation.

General Features:

Leaves: Large, broad, and oval shaped with a glossy, dark green surface. Young leaves are often reddish before maturing.

Bark: Smooth and greyish, becoming rough with age.

Fruits: Small, round, and yellowish green figs, not commonly consumed.

Height: Can grow up to 3040 meters (about 98131 feet) tall in its natural habitat, though typically much shorter when cultivated indoors.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, enclosed within the fig.

Ficus elastica, commonly known as the Rubber Plant, is a versatile and popular plant both indoors and outdoors. Its striking appearance and low maintenance make it a favourite among houseplant enthusiasts, while its historical and environmental significance adds to its value.

