

Botanical Name—Aegle marmelos
Family—RUTACEAE

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Subclass: Rosidae
Order: Sapindales
Family: Rutaceae
Genus: Aegle
Species: A. marmelos

Introduction

Bilva is a fruit-bearing tree indigenous to dry forests on hills and plains of central and southern India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. It is cultivated throughout India, as well as in Sri Lanka, northern Malaya, Java and in the Philippines. It is also popularly known as Bilva, Bilwa, Bel, or Beli fruit, Bengal quince, stone apple, and wood apple. The tree, which is the only species in the genus Aegle, grows up to 18 meters tall .

Bilva is extensively described and used in the Vedic literature. Bilva Mani dhārana is considered as Duhsvapana nāna, Raksoghna, Rasayana, Prajāsthapana, Visghna etc. It is also used for rituals, marriages etc. Its cosmetic properties were also documented by the ancient texts.

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