

“RIGHT PLACE FOR BRIGHT FUTURE”

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PLANT MORPHOLOGY



Botanical Name :- *Bixa orellana* L.
Family :- Bixaceae
Local Name :- Shendri

Bixa orellana is thought to have originated in tropical regions extending from Mexico to Brazil. It was probably not initially utilised as a food ingredient but for other uses including ceremonial and ornamental body painting, which is still a popular tradition among many Brazilian native tribes, such as the Wari.

Morphology: -

The plant is an evergreen small tree with 2 to 7 m height; bark is tough, smooth and light or dark brown in colour. The leaves are simple, opposite with acute apex and spirally arranged. Flowers pedicelate terminal branched panicles with 8 to 20 flowered, pink or purple colour, having 5 free and obovate sepals. Stamens infinite. Flowering takes place mainly in spring and fruiting in summer season. Fruits are spherical or ovoid capsule, clothed with long soft prickles, reddish-brown, bi-valved.; seeds oval and angular, and numerous with bright orange-red coats.

Uses: -

Shendri is commonly used to impart a orange colour to many industrialized and semi-industrialized foods, including cheese, ice cream, bakery products, desserts, fruit fillings, yogurt, butter, oils, margarines, processed cheese, and fat-based products. The seeds have a high nutritive value, containing a small amount of fatty oil (5%) and about 13% of protein. The seed is red and this can be used to colour foods. A decoction of the leaves is used as a treatment for dysentery and to reduce vomiting during pregnancy.
