



Chironji Tree



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DECIDUOUS	Native	Tree		Photo: Dinesh Valke
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Common name: Chironji Tree, almondette, calumpung nut, Cheronjee, Cuddapah almond, Hamilton mombin • **Hindi:** चार char, चिरौजी chironji, चिरौजी chiraunji, पियाल piyal, प्रसवक pra-savak, प्रियाल priyal • **Marathi:** चार char, चारोळी charoli, पियाल piyal • **Tamil:** சாறம் charam • **Malayalam:** മുങ്ങാപ്പേഴ് muungaappeezh, നൂറമരം nuramaram • **Telugu:** చార char, చారుమామిడి charumamidi, ప్రియాళువు priyaluvu, రాజాదనము raj-adanam • **Kannada:** ಚಾರೋಳಿ charoli, ಕೊಲೆ ಮಾವು kole maavu • **Bengali:** chironji, piyal, sarop • **Oriya:** charu, chanhra • **Konkani:** चार char • **Urdu:** چرونجی chironji • **Assamese:** পিয়াল piyal • **Gujarati:** ચારોળી charoli • **Sanskrit:** अखट्टः akhatth, मुनि muni, पियाल piyala, प्रसवकः prasavakh, प्रियाल priyala, राजनदनः rajanadanha, उपवटः upavatth • **Nepali:** चिरौजि chiraunjee

Botanical name: *Buchanania lanzan* **Family:** *Anacardiaceae* (Cashew family)

Synonyms: *Buchanania latifolia*, *Chironjia sapida*

Chironji Tree is a medium-sized deciduous tree, growing to about 50 ft tall. It bears fruits each containing a single seed, which is popular as an edible nut, known as *chironji*. It is common in our forests mostly in eroded ravine lands. It avoids waterlogged areas, but occurs locally in clay soils. It can be identified by the dark grey crocodile bark with red blaze. A good species for afforesting bare hill slopes. It has tickly leathery leaves which are broadly oblong, with blunt tip and rounded base. Leaves have 10-20 pairs of straight, parallel veins. Pyramidal panicles of greenish white flowers appear in early spring. Fruits ripen from April to May and remain on the tree for quite a long time. Flowering: January-March.

Medicinal uses: ⚠️ The roots are acrid, astringent, cooling, depurative and constipating, and are useful in treatment of diarrhoea. Leaves are used in the treatment of skin diseases. Fruits are used in treating cough and asthma.

Identification credit: Hemanth Tripathi

Photographed at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai.

• **Is this flower misidentified?** If yes,