



Kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*)

1. Name of Plant

Scientific Name: *Bauhinia variegata* L.

Common Name: Kachnar, Orchid Tree, Mountain Ebony

Hindi Name: कचनार

Family: Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae)

2. Taxonomy Details

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Division:** Angiosperms
- **Class:** Dicotyledonae
- **Order:** Fabales
- **Family:** Fabaceae
- **Subfamily:** Caesalpinioideae
- **Genus:** *Bauhinia*
- **Species:** *Bauhinia variegata*

3. Habit & Habitat

Habit:

- Medium-sized deciduous tree
- Height: 8–15 m
- Leaves are bilobed, resembling a camel's hoof

Habitat:

- Native to tropical and subtropical regions of India, China, and Southeast Asia
- Common in dry deciduous forests, plains, roadsides, and gardens
- Widely cultivated as an ornamental tree

4. Ecological Importance

- Flowers attract bees, butterflies, and pollinating insects
- Provides shade and shelter for birds and small animals
- Contributes to urban greenery and biodiversity
- Improves soil quality through leaf litter and organic matter
- Useful in afforestation and landscaping

5. Economical Uses

🌿 Medicinal Uses

- Bark, leaves, and flowers used in Ayurveda and folk medicine
- Used for treatment of ulcers, goiter, diarrhea, and inflammation
- Possesses antimicrobial and anti-diabetic properties

🌸 Ornamental Uses

- Highly valued ornamental tree due to large orchid-like pink and white flowers
- Planted in parks, gardens, and avenues

🍷 Food Uses

- Flower buds used as vegetable (popular in Indian cuisine)

🪵 Timber & Fuel

- Wood used for agricultural implements and fuelwood

