

## ***Bauhinia variegata* (Orchid Tree)**

It is known as the Orchid Tree or Mountain Ebony, is a species of flowering plant in the family Fabaceae.

### **Classification**

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Clade: Eudicots

Clade: Rosids

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: *Bauhinia*

Species: *variegata*



### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERS**

**Leaves:** Large, bilobed, and shaped like a cow's hoof, with a long petiole.

**Flowers:** Showy, fragrant, and orchid-like, with five petals in shades of pink, purple, and white.

**Fruits:** Long, flat pods containing 6-12 seeds.

### **ECOLOGICAL ROLE AND USE**

Provides shade and food for various animals and birds. Acts as a soil stabilizer and nitrogen-fixer. It is planted in gardens and parks for its beautiful flowers. Wood is used for furniture-making and construction. Various parts of the plant are used in traditional medicine to treat fever, cough, and skin diseases.

### **INTERESTING FACTS**

*Bauhinia variegata* is considered sacred in some parts of India, where it's associated with the goddess Kali. The tree is also a popular choice for bonsai cultivation due to its unique shape and adaptability.