

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Averrhoa bilimbi and *Phyllanthus acidus*

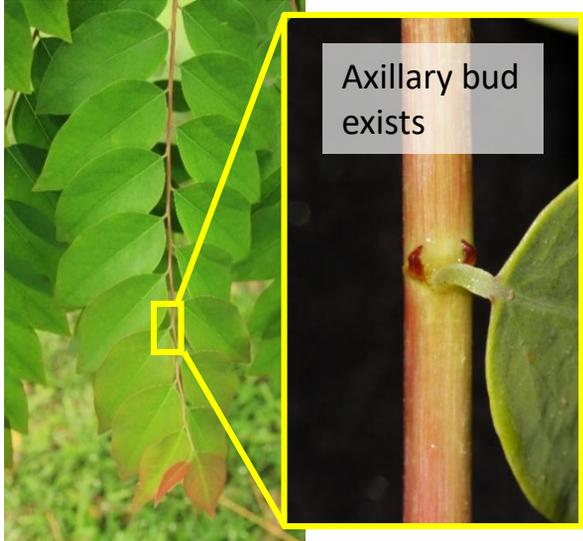


Scientific name: *Averrhoa bilimbi*
Common name: Belimbing
Family: Oxalidaceae
Origin: Moluccas, Indonesia, Malaysia

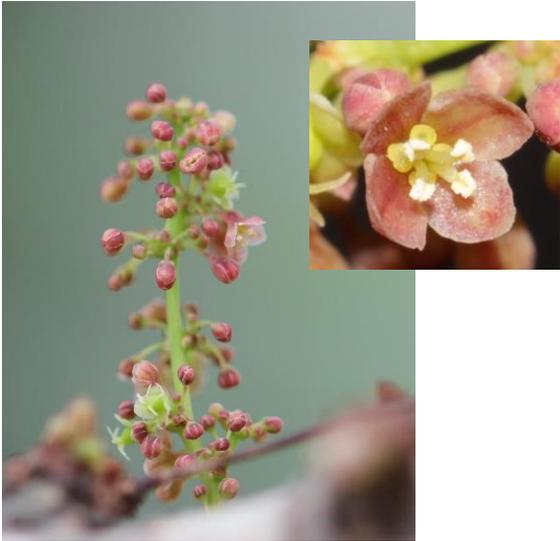


Scientific name: *Phyllanthus acidus*
Common name: Malay Gooseberry
Family: Phyllanthaceae
Origin: Brazil

Character comparison

	<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i>	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small tree, up to 5-10 m tall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small tree, up to 2-10 m tall. 
Foliage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves compound, 30-60 cm long, leaflets ovate to oblong, up to 10 cm long Petioles and rachis hairy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves simple, ovate, up to 9 cm long Stems glabrous 

Character comparison

	<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i>	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>
Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowers borne in panicles on trunk and branches Purplish-red, 5-petaled, 1-2 cm across  <p>The image shows a large, vertical panicle of small, purplish-red flowers growing from the trunk of a tree. An inset image shows a close-up of a single flower with five petals and a yellow center.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowers borne in panicles on branches Pink, 4-petaled, about 0.3 cm across  <p>The image shows a vertical panicle of small, pink flowers on a branch. An inset image shows a close-up of a single flower with four petals and a yellow center.</p>
Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit ellipsoid to nearly cylindrical, 5-10 cm long Slightly 5-lobed Ripens yellowish-green to nearly white  <p>The image shows a cluster of green, ellipsoid fruits hanging from a branch. The fruits are slightly 5-lobed and have a yellowish-green color.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit round, 1-2.5 cm across 6- or 8-lobed Ripens pale yellow to creamy white  <p>The image shows a cluster of round, pale yellow fruits hanging from a branch. The fruits are 6- or 8-lobed and have a creamy white color.</p>

References

- Van Holthoon, F.L. (1990). Phyllanthus. In: de Padua, L.S., Bunyaphratsara, N. and Lemmens, R.H.M.J. (Eds): *Plant Resources of South-East Asia No 12(1). Medicinal and poisonous plants 1*. Prosea Foundation, Bogor, Indonesia: 381-392.
- Samson, J.A. (1992). Averrhoa. In: Verheij, E.W.M. and Corone, R.E. (Eds): *Plant Resources of South-East Asia No 2. Edible fruits and nuts*. Prosea Foundation, Bogor, Indonesia: 96-98.