



Scientific name	<i><u>Lawsonia inermis</u> L.</i>
Common name	Henna tree (മൈലാഞ്ചി)
Family	Lythraceae
Plant description	<p>Henna is a tall shrub or small tree, standing 1.8 to 7.6 m tall . It is glabrous and multi-branched, with spine-tipped branchlets. The leaves grow opposite each other on the stem. They are glabrous, sub-sessile, elliptical, and lanceolate (long and wider in the middle), acuminate (tapering to a long point), and have depressed veins on the dorsal surface. Henna flowers have four sepals and a 2 mm calyx tube, with 3 mm spread lobes. Its petals are ovate, with white or red stamens found in pairs on the rim of the calyx tube. The ovary is four-celled, 5 mm long, and erect. Henna fruits are small, brownish capsules, 4–8 mm in diameter, with 32–49 seeds per fruit, and open irregularly into four splits</p>
Distribution	The henna plant is native to northern Africa, Asia and northern Australia, in semi-arid zones and tropical areas

Uses	Is used as a dye for skin, hair, and fingernails, as well as fabrics—silk, wool, and leather
Flowering and fruiting time	It blooms in late spring or early summer with fragrant white flowers. Flowering period is December-May