



<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Ficus elastica</i> Roxb. Ex Hornem
<b>Common Names</b>	Rubber fig, Indian Rubber Tree, ശീമയാൽ.
<b>Family</b>	Moraceae
<b>Plant description</b>	It is a large tree in the banyan group of figs, growing to 30–40 m (100–130 ft) tall, with a stout trunk up to 2 m (6 ft 7 inches) in diameter. The trunk develops aerial and buttressing roots to anchor it in the soil and help support heavy branches. It has broad, thick, leathery and glossy dark green oval leaves 10–35 cm (4–14 inches) long and 5–15 cm (2–6 inches) broad. Its flowers are small and green, lacking significant colour or fragrance. As with other members of the genus <i>Ficus</i> , the flowers require a particular species of fig wasp to pollinate it in a co-evolved relationship. The fruit is a small yellow-green oval fig 1 cm (1/2 inches) long, barely edible; these are fake fruits that contain fertile seeds only in areas where the pollinating insect is present.
<b>Distribution</b>	This species is native to eastern parts of South and Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. It has become naturalized in Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and the US state of Florida. They are cultivated in many tropical and subtropical regions for its latex and ornamental value.
<b>Uses</b>	They are used as ornamentals due to its attractive foliage and shape, both as indoor and outdoor plants. the latex of <i>Ficus elastica</i> is an irritant to the eyes and skin and is toxic if taken internally. Despite its common names, it is not used in the commercial production of natural rubber. It possesses antimicrobial activity and the leaves extract is used for the treatment of skin infections and skin allergies, as well as a diuretic agent.

<b>Flowering and Fruiting time</b>	It flowers throughout the year, but more abundant during the spring and summer months. Figs ripen throughout the year, but peak production occurs during the summer and early fall. Fruits and flowers are not typically produced indoors.
------------------------------------	--