

Ficus elastica

Moraceae

Malaysia, India

Eng: India rubber tree, Rubber plant

- Ecology:** This tree has been introduced to some places in Eritrea, 1,600-2,300 m. Mainly planted in Asmara and Sabur as an ornamental tree.
- Uses:** **Ornamental**, shade.
- Description:** A large spreading evergreen tree to 30 m in its native rain forests. It may grow many aerial roots from the trunk and branches. **LEAVES:** Large, oval and **shiny**, long, **abruptly pointed** with parallel side veins, rather **leathery** to 30 cm, on a yellow stalk to 6 cm. The **leaf bud is covered with a pink-red membrane**, usually 7 cm but as long as 30 cm on young plants. It falls away when the leaves unfold. **FRUIT:** Figs, yellow oblong about 1 cm in pairs in the leaf axils.
- Propagation:** Cuttings.
- Seed:**
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** Plant widely spaced.
- Remarks:** White latex, India rubber, was extracted from the trunk and prop roots but the rubber is inferior to that from *Hevea brasiliensis*. It contains too much resin and can only be tapped every three months.

