

• 中文名稱：羊蹄甲

• 英文名稱：Orchid Tree , Mountain Ebony

• 學名：*Bauhinia variegata* Linn.

*Bauhinia alba* Buch.-Ham. ex Wall.

• 科別：豆科(Fabaceae)羊蹄甲屬(Bauhinia)

- 羊蹄甲、馬蹄豆，洋紫荊(廣州)，紅紫荊、紅花紫荊、彎葉樹、南洋櫻花 **English Common Name:** Purple Bauhinia / Butterfly Tree
- **Botanical Name:** *Bauhinia purpurea*

The aliases you provided translate as follows:

- 別名：
- **Orchid Tree / Camel's Foot** (羊蹄甲 - *Yang Ti Jia: The most common general name for the genus in Taiwan*)
  - **Horseshoe Bean** (馬蹄豆 - *Refers to the shape of the leaves and its legume family*)
  - **Hong Kong Orchid Tree (Guangzhou usage)** (洋紫荊 - *Note: This is very confusing! In Guangzhou/Mainland China, "洋紫荊" refers to this species, but in Hong Kong and Taiwan, "洋紫荊" or "豔紫荊" usually refers to the sterile hybrid we just discussed.*)
  - **Red Bauhinia / Red-Flowered Bauhinia** (紅紫荊 / 紅花紫荊)
  - **Curved-Leaf Tree** (彎葉樹 - *Refers to the way the leaf lobes often fold or curve*)
  - **South Asian Cherry Blossom** (南洋櫻花 - *A poetic name used in Southeast Asia and Southern Taiwan because of its pink-purple bloom*)

• 原產地：

- 中國大陸及印度。台灣於 1896、1900 年分別引進。 **Origin:**
  - Native to **Mainland China and India.**
  - **Introduction to Taiwan:** It was introduced to Taiwan twice, in **1896 and 1900**, during the early Japanese colonial period.

• 分布：

- 各地均有栽植，是庭園常見的觀賞花木。 **Distribution:**
  - **Cultivated throughout the region** (everywhere in Taiwan).

- It is a very **common ornamental flowering tree** found in gardens and parks.

1.是庭園常見的觀賞花木，常用作行道樹、園景樹、圍牆外籬樹。2.藥用：性味：根：苦、澀、平。效用：根：治肺炎，肝炎，支氣管炎，咳嗽，咳嗽咯血，消化不良，急性胃腸炎，關節疼痛，跌打損傷；根皮：涼血，止血。□ **Ornamental & Landscaping:**

• 用途：

- A very common ornamental flowering plant for gardens.
  - Widely used as a **street tree, landscape tree**, and for **hedges or screening** along outer walls and fences.
- **Medicinal (Traditional Medicine):**
- **Properties (Nature & Flavor):** The **Root** is bitter, astringent, and neutral in nature.
  - **Root Efficacy:** Used to treat pneumonia, hepatitis, bronchitis, general coughs, hemoptysis (coughing up blood), indigestion, acute gastroenteritis, joint pain, and traumatic injuries (bruises/falls).
  - **Root Bark Efficacy:** Used for "cooling the blood" and stopping bleeding (hemostasis).

• 莖：

株高 4~6 公尺，具多數分枝；樹枝粗壯而光滑，小枝略呈下垂狀，有銹色絨毛。 **Stem (Trunk and Branches)**

- **Height:** Typically grows to **4–6 meters** tall (generally smaller and more shrub-like than the Hong Kong Orchid Tree).
- **Branching:** Features numerous branches.
- **Texture:** The main branches are **thick, sturdy, and smooth**.
- **Twigs:** The smaller, younger twigs tend to be **slightly drooping** (pendulous).
- **Distinctive Feature:** The young twigs are covered in **rusty-colored (ferruginous) fine hairs**, which is a helpful identifier compared to other species.

• 葉：

葉互生，腎形或馬蹄形像羊蹄，長 5~15 公分，寬 5~16 公分，先端鈍而圓，表面帶粉質，2 裂，裂片通常裂至葉片 1/4 至 1/3 處，基部深心形，近似硬革質，葉肉厚，葉脈 11 枚；葉柄粗狀，長 1.5~2.5 公分，光滑無毛或僅有柔毛。 This describes the leaf of the **Purple Bauhinia (*Bauhinia purpurea*)**. You'll notice some subtle differences here compared to the sterile hybrid we translated earlier—specifically the texture and the petiole (leaf stalk) length.

## Leaf (葉) Characteristics

- **Arrangement:** Leaves are **alternate**.
- **Shape:** **Reniform (kidney-shaped)** or **horseshoe-shaped**, resembling a sheep's hoof (hence the name 羊蹄甲).
- **Dimensions:** **5–15 cm long** and **5–16 cm wide**.
- **Texture:** The leaf surface has a **powdery or glaucous (帶粉質)** finish. The texture is **nearly leathery (coriaceous)** and the leaf flesh is noticeably thick.
- **Apex (Tips):** The tip is blunt and rounded.
- **Cleft (Split):** The leaf is **bilobed**, with the split typically reaching **1/4 to 1/3** of the way down the leaf blade.
- **Base:** Deeply **cordate (heart-shaped)** at the base.
- **Venation:** Features **11 primary veins**.
- **Petioles (Leaf Stalks):** Stout and sturdy, **1.5–2.5 cm long** (slightly longer than the hybrid). They are either smooth (glabrous) or only slightly covered in soft hairs.

花多數，側生，繖房花序或密集的總狀花序，苞片小，三角形，花柄直立顯著，長 0.8~1.2 公分；花萼筒長 2~2.5 公分，裂片佛焰苞狀，全緣；花瓣倒卵形，長 3.5~5 公分，寬 2.5~3 公分，先端鈍，基部有爪，爪長 0.5~0.8 公分；完全雄蕊 3~5 枚，子房有長柄，花柱細長，柱頭微小。花期春天 3~5 月間，盛開時花多葉少，滿樹繽紛。花為總狀花序，花冠桃紅帶濃紫色線條。This section describes the flowers of the **Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia variegata*)**, which is often called the "South Asian Cherry Blossom" in Taiwan because it blooms so profusely in the spring.

• 花：

## Flower (花) Characteristics

- **Inflorescence:** Flowers are numerous and grow from the sides of branches (**lateral**). They are arranged in **corymbs** or dense **racemes** (clusters).
- **Structure:**
  - **Bracts:** Small and triangular.
  - **Pedicels (Flower Stalks):** Noticeably upright, **0.8–1.2 cm long**.

- **Calyx:** The tube is 2–2.5 cm long; the lobes are **spathe-like** and have smooth (entire) edges.
- **Petals:**
  - **Shape:** Obovate (egg-shaped but wider at the tip).
  - **Size:** **3.5–5 cm long** and 2.5–3 cm wide.
  - **Details:** The tips are blunt, and the base has a "claw" (narrow section) measuring 0.5–0.8 cm.
- **Reproductive Parts:** Features **3–5 fertile stamens**. The ovary has a long stalk, a slender style, and a tiny stigma.
- **Blooming Season: Spring (March to May).**
- **Visual Impact:** When in full bloom, there are **many flowers and few leaves**, creating a colorful "blanket" over the entire tree.
- **Color:** The corolla is **peach-pink with deep purple stripes/streaks**.

果實豆莢狀，長 16~33 公分，寬 2~2.5 公分，硬革質，青綠色，扁平，光滑，先端有長尖突，成熟時開裂轉變成為黑褐色果實，內有種子 10~15 枚。Here is the translation for the fruit of the **Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia variegata*)**. Unlike the sterile "Hong Kong Orchid Tree" we discussed first, this species produces functional seed pods.

#### Fruit (果實) Characteristics

#### • 果實：

- **Type:** The fruit is **pod-like (legume)**.
- **Dimensions:** **16–33 cm long** and 2–2.5 cm wide.
- **Texture & Appearance:**
  - **Firm and leathery** (coriaceous) in texture.
  - Starts out **lime green**, flat, and smooth.
  - The tip features a **long, sharp point (mucronate)**.
- **Maturation:** When ripe, the pod **dehisces (splits open)** and turns a **dark blackish-brown**.

- **Seeds:** Each pod contains **10–15 seeds**.

落葉小喬木，株高 4~6 公尺，枝直立性，原產中國大陸及印度，是庭園常見的觀賞花木，葉片像羊蹄，葉端鈍而圓，表面帶粉質，葉肉厚，葉脈不太明顯，花色像洋蘭，果實豆莢狀。另因其花形酷似嘉德麗亞蘭，故又稱「蘭花木」(Orchid Tree)，亦名「南洋櫻花」。羊蹄甲類尚有種黃花羊蹄甲 (*Bauhinia tomentosa*, Yellow Ebony)、白花羊蹄甲(*Bauhinia variegata* Linn. cv. *candida*.Hort.)、紅花羊蹄甲(*Bauhinia punctata* C.Bolle.)...等品種。

### Characteristics (特性)

- 特性：

- **Growth Form:** A **deciduous small tree**, typically reaching **4–6 meters** in height with **upright branches**.
- **Foliage:** The leaves are shaped like a **sheep's hoof** (bilobed). The tips are blunt and rounded, the surface has a **powdery (glaucous) finish**, and the leaf blade is thick. Notably, the **leaf veins are less prominent** compared to other species.
- **Flowers & Fruit:** The flowers resemble Western orchids (specifically *Cattleya* orchids), and the fruit is a typical **legume (pod)**.
- **Common Names:** Due to its orchid-like appearance, it is often called the "**Orchid Tree**" or "**South Asian Cherry Blossom**" (南洋櫻花).