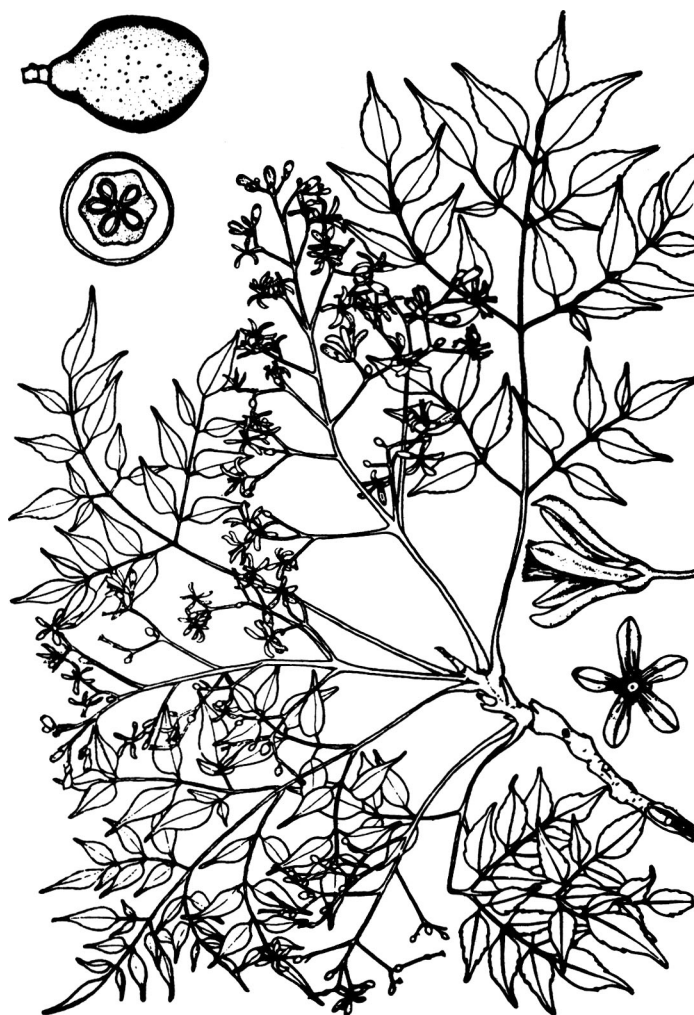


222. *MELIA AZEDARACH* L. (MELIACEAE) — Chinaberry

Fruit oils have been used in candles and paints, seed for hair tonic, soaps, and insecticides. Mexicans use the bark as a fish poison.<sup>3</sup> Aqueous leaf extract is said to protect fruit orchards, kitchen gardens, and date oases from insect damage. Acridians do not eat leaves sprayed with *Melia* extract. Leaves are sometimes mixed in with woolen goods to discourage moths. The pits of the fruits have been strung as rosaries and "worry beads" now prohibited in Greece.<sup>42</sup> The bark and foliage is used to intoxicate fish.<sup>22</sup> Wood used for carpentry and fuel.<sup>3</sup>

The plant is used in folk remedies for tumors in Colombia and India.<sup>4</sup> Reported to be abortifacient, anodyne, antiseptic, ascaricidal, astringent, deobstruent, depurative, diuretic, emetic, emmenagogue, insecticide, laxative, narcotic, pediculicide, piscicide, pulicide, purgative, resolvent, sedative, stimulant, stomachic, tonic, and vermifuge, chinaberry is a folk remedy for asthma, cold, cough, eczema, eruptions, fever, headache, heatrash, hernia, hysteria, infection, leprosy, marasmus, rash, rheumatism, ringworm, scrofula, splenosis, stones, swellings, tumors, ulcers.<sup>32,33</sup> Costa Ricans use the leaf-flower infusion as an emmenagogue; Puerto Ricans as a febrifuge and sedative in hysteria. Cubans use the leaf decoction in baths for rheumatism. Brazilians apply the leaves to tumors and inflamed glands. Bermudans took powdered bark decoction for diarrhea and dysentery. Curacao women apply