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DEPARTMENT OF DRAVYAGUNA



AMALAKI

Marathi: Awala

Botanical name: Emblica officinalis

Synonyms: Phyllanthus emblica L.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Common name: Amla, Indian gooseberry

Description: Amla is a small to medium sized deciduous tree, reaching 8 to 18 m in height, which is known for its edible fruit of the same name. The tree has crooked trunk and spreading branches. The leaves are simple, nearly stalkless and closely set along slender branchlets. The leaves are often mistaken for leaflets of pinnate leaves. The genus name Phyllanthus is derived from Greek words meaning leaf-flower, an allusion to the apparent bearing of flowers on the leaves. Amla flowers are small, greenish-yellow or pinkish. The flowers have six segments, but no real petals. Male and female flowers are carried separately on the same branch. The fruit is nearly spherical, light greenish yellow, quite smooth and hard on appearance, with 6 vertical stripes or furrows. Ripening in autumn, the berries are harvested by hand after

climbing to upper branches bearing the fruits. The taste of Amla is sour, bitter and astringent, and is quite

fibrous. In India, it is common to eat gooseberries with salt and water to make the sour fruits palatable.

Attributes: Rasa-AmalapradhanPanchrasa, Veerya-Sheet, Vipak-Madhur, Guna-

Laghu, Ruksha.

Medicinal uses: The use of Emblica officinalis as antioxidant, immune modulatory, antipyretic, analgesic, cytoprotective, anti ulcer, immune modulatory, anti inflammatory, antitussive and gastroprotective are also studied.