

Corchorus capsularis

[Synonyms : *Corchorus cordifolius*, *Corchorus marua*]

JUTE (English, German) is an annual. Native to China it has tiny, yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Bằng đay* (Vietnamese), Bangla white jute (English, Indian), *Belyi dzhut* (Russian), *Blanke jute* (Dutch), *Bó* (Vietnamese), *Bunlar beyaz jüt* (Turkish), *Cây đay* (Vietnamese), *Chanvre de Calcutta* (French), *Corchorus*, *Corcoro* (Italian), *Corète capsulaire* (French), *Corète textile* (French), *Corette* (French, Réunion), *Đai* (Vietnamese), *Đay* (Vietnamese), *Đay quả tròn* (Vietnamese), *Dzhut* (Russian), *Dzhut krugloplodnyi* (Russian), *Giuta me sfairika perikardia* (Greek), *Giuta me sfairikus karpus* (Greek), *Gooni* (French, Réunion), *Gunny-fibre*, *Hind keneviri* (Turkish), *Huang ma* (Chinese), *Hvid jute* (Danish), *Indischer Flacks* (German), *Isabanda* (Marathi), *Isapanda* (Marathi), *Isaphanda* (Marathi), *Iuta a fructo capsulare* (Italian), *Iuta bianca* (Italian), *Jelita* (Malay), *Jhuto* (Bengali), *Jut* (Iranian, Persian), *Jût* (Arabic, Egyptian), *Juta* (Polish), *Juta bianca* (Italian), *Juta branca* (Portuguese), *Juta de fruto redondo* (Portuguese), *Jute à capsules globuleuses* (French), *Jute à fruit capsulaire* (French), *Jutepflanze* (German), *Juutti* (Finnish), *Kalasaka* (Sanskrit), *Kancing baju* (Malay), *Korkoro kapsula* (Esperanto), *Lefki giuta* (Greek), *Narcha* (Bengali), *Pasau-na-bilog* (Filipino/Tagalog), *Patsan* (Hindi, Punjabi), *Paw kachao* (Thai), *Po krachao* (Thai), *Po seng* (Thai), *Rondpeulige jute* (Dutch), *Rundkapseljute* (German), *Rundkapslet jute* (Danish), *San* (Hindi, Sanskrit), *Shuti paat* (Hindi), *Titamara* (Assamese), *Weisse Jute* (German), *White jute*, *Yuan guo huang ma* (Chinese), *Yute blanco* (Spanish), and *Yute de fruto redondeado* (Spanish); and in flower language is said to be a symbol of ‘impatient of absence’, and return quickly.

Fibre is extracted from the bark and the stems.

Capsularis means ‘with capsules’.

In Britain in the early 19th Century imported jute fibre was first prepared in Dundee (then a whaling port) and woven using whale oil and until 1998 Dundee continued to be the centre of the UK jute processing industry. That year however the last jute mill closed and brought to a close a significant phase in the town’s history. At its height Dundee supplied the whole of the world with jute products. Jute is found in hessian or burlap, used today for sacking and as backing for floor material such as linoleum.

The United States Department of Agriculture introduced jute to some of the southern states in 1870, but it is understood to have gained little popularity as a cash crop there at that time.

Locally the leaves are eaten as a vegetable with rice (*Oryza*) and are also considered to be a tonic. In India and Bangladesh the leaves are used primarily as a food flavouring.

Jute is depicted in the shield of the green and white national coat of arms of Pakistan.

Today rope is still made from the fibre in northern India. Apart from rope the fibre can still be used today on a commercial scale for cable, twine, carpet-backing, linoleum-backing, sandbags, sacking, roofing felt, damp courses, plasterboard, deck caulking, vehicle interior linings and soles of ‘rope’ sandals. The ends of stems are used to make paper.

Medicinally, an infusion of leaves has been used to treat fever, dysentery, liver disorders, stomach upsets and indigestion, and has also been taken to ease coughs and encourage appetite. The root and unripe fruit have provided a remedy for diarrhoea.

