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Ficus elastica

RUBBER PLANT is an evergreen tree. Native to Indomalaysia it has yellowish-green fruit (receptacles).

It is also known as *Arvore da Borracha* (Portuguese), Assam rubber, *Borracheira* (Portuguese), *Caoutchouc* (French), Common household rubber plant, *Figuier d'appartement* (French), *Fikuso kaŭĉuka* (Esperanto), *Fikusträd* (Swedish), *Fönsterfikus* (Swedish), *Goma elástica* (Spanish), *Gommier* (French), *Gummibaum* (German), *Gummifigen* (Danish), Indian rubber fig, Indian-rubber plant, Indian rubber fig, India rubber tree, Karet tree, *Rambong* (Malay), Rambong tree, Rubber tree, and Snake tree.

The aerial roots and stems can be tapped for latex.

Elastica means 'elastic, flexible or bearing flexible matter' with reference to the latex produced by this species.

Very, very young leaf tips have been eaten in salads in Java (now part of Indonesia).

Once an important source of rubber until the Para rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) with its lower resin content took over, it is now more familiar in western Europe as an indoor house plant. The rubber (which with time loses its elasticity) was used originally for erasers and also for waterproofing baskets and matting.