



RICINUS COMMUNIS L.

Fam. Euphorbiaceae

HABITAT

This plant is native to East Africa.

DISTRIBUTION

In the places of origin, it takes the form of a proper tree which can exceed 10 metres in height, while in our latitudes, it develops as a shrub and does not grow taller than two metres.

FLOWERS

The panicle inflorescence is formed by both female and male flowers; it blooms in summer.

FRUITS

Orbicular capsules covered with soft thorns contain three large oval seeds similar to beans, marbled and shiny.

ROOTS

A very robust taproot supports a central stem.

LEAVES

Broad alternate palmate leaves split into lobes (5 to 15), furrowed by very marked veins, with jagged margins.

STEM

Green-purple stems support broad, very ornamental palmate leaves with jagged margins.

INTERESTING FACTS

Even though the plant is toxic, castor oil is obtained from its seeds, an ingredient used to strengthen hair and eyelashes, to prepare anti-dandruff lotions and to fight constipation thanks to its laxative properties, due to the high content of ricinoleic acid.

