

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Breynia disticha 'Roseo-picta' VS *Bridelia ovata* (variegated)
VS *Pithecellobium dulce* (variegated)



Scientific name: *Bridelia ovata*
(variegated)

Common name: -

Family name: Phyllanthaceae



Scientific name: *Breynia disticha*
'Roseo-picta'

Common name: Red-Leaf Breynia

Family name: Phyllanthaceae



Scientific name: *Pithecellobium dulce*
(variegated)

Common name: Variegated Madras
Thorn

Family name: Fabaceae

Character Comparison

	<i>Bridelia ovata</i> (variegated)	<i>Breynia disticha</i> 'Roseo-picta'	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (variegated)
Form & Habit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrambling shrub to a tree • Grows up to 8 m tall • Grows best in semi-shaded areas with bright indirect light for optimum growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect shrub • Grows up to 2 m tall • Full sun encourages more pink variegation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree, however variegated form commonly cultivated and maintained as a shrub for its dense foliage • Grows up to 6 m tall • Prefers full sun for optimum growth
			

Character Comparison

	<i>Bridelia ovata</i> (variegated)	<i>Breynia disticha</i> 'Roseo-picta'	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (variegated)
Stem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young stem reddish brown, lenticels³ are scattered • Stipules¹ narrowly triangular, up to 10 mm long and 1.2 mm wide, caducous² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young stem reddish, thin • Subtle zig-zag pattern • Stipules¹ triangular, small and short, caducous² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young stem pinkish, thin • Pairs of sharp thin spines found at the base of leaf stalks. These are modified from stipules¹ 

¹ Stipule: leaf-like, spine-like or scale-like appendages of the leaf, usually in pairs at the base of the petiole

² Caducous: falling off soon after formation, not persistent

³ Lenticel: corky eruptions on bark that allow gas exchange

Character Comparison

	<i>Bridelia ovata</i> (variegated)	<i>Breynia disticha</i> 'Roseo-picta'	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (variegated)
Foliage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves are simple, papery • Elliptic to oblong, 5-18 cm long • Base obtuse, tip obtuse to rounded to bluntly pointed • Alternately arranged along the stem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves are simple, smooth • Elliptic to ovate, up to 2.5 cm long • Base obtuse to rounded, tip rounded • Alternately arranged along the stem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves are compound, with 2 sets of paired leaflets (bipinnate), smooth • Elliptic to obovate-elliptic, 2-5 x 0.2-0.5 cm • Base unequal, tip rounded • Alternately arranged along the stem
			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature leaves are green near the midrib, with irregular patches of cream or yellowish green near the margin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature leaves are predominantly green, mottled with few pinkish white patches throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature leaves are either green with predominantly cream to pale yellow; or predominantly dark green with irregular streaks or small patches throughout

Character Comparison

	<i>Bridelia ovata</i> (variegated)	<i>Breynia disticha</i> 'Roseo-picta'	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (variegated)
Foliage (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young leaves display more cream or yellowish green patches compared to mature leaves • Pink to red colouration gradually more intense towards the newer shoots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young leaves display more striking variegation compared to mature leaves • Irregular mottling in white and pale pink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young leaves display more white to bright cream with pink tones compared to mature leaves • Light pink tones predominantly on the newly emerged shoots
			

Side-by-side Mature Leaf Size Comparison

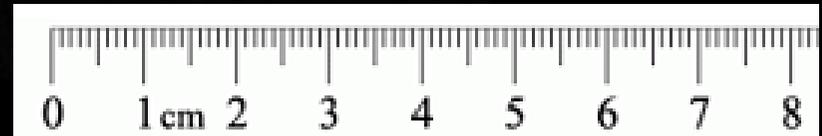
Bridelia ovata
(variegated)



Pithecellobium dulce
(variegated)



Breynia disticha
'Roseo-picta'



Reference

1. *Breynia disticha* 'Roseo picta' – Missouri Botanical Garden
<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=262140&isprofile=0&> (accessed on 19 Jan 2026).
2. *Breynia disticha* in Flora of North America @ efloras.org. https://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=220001922 (accessed on 20 Jan 2026)
3. Flora of Thailand: *Bridelia ovata* Decne. <https://botany.dnp.go.th/eflora/floraspecies.html?tdcode=03251> (accessed on 19 Jan 2026)
4. Flora of Thailand: *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth. <https://botany.dnp.go.th/eflora/floraSpecies.html?tdcode=00852> (accessed on 19 Jan 2026)
5. *Pithecellobium dulce* 'Variegated' – JCU Australia <https://www.jcu.edu.au/discover-nature-at-jcu/plants/nq-weeds-by-common-name/pithecellobium-dulce-variegated> (accessed on 20 Jan 2026).