

Trees of Thiagarajar College, Madurai

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Trees are among the best creators of Mother Nature. Trees beautify places and naturally becomes as everyone's choice for landscaping. In Thiagarajar College Campus of Teppakulam, Madurai, hundreds of trees, comprising of 65 species, belonging to 31 botanical families (Table 1), have been grown inside the College Campus. The trees collection includes rare tree species of *sandal wood tree*, *yellow teak* (related species of *Sthalavirusham* of Goddess Meenakshi Sundareshwarar Temple, Madurai), *beech wood tree*, soap-nut tree with the genuine mix of beautiful exotic trees. During several occasions, tree planting programme has been conducted and through which, new species are introduced in the College campus premises, makes the place as an arboretum.

Every one inside the Campus could enjoy the shade and breeze of the trees, as the tree shade moderates the ambient hot weather. A sudden thought of iconic *Pipal tree*, in front of the College Library and by the side of the New Conference Hall, comes to the minds of everyone, who relates to the College reminiscent about their *Alma matter*. Pleasant fragrance emanates from the *neem*, *butter tree*, *Indian siris*, *Spanish Cherry*, *divi-divi* and several other trees' flowers, emanate sweet-smelling fragrance; one can walk over the golden yellow flower bed beneath the *Peltophorum* trees, at its full bloom. The most attractive cherry red blooming *May flower* trees makes one's mind peaceful and the perfect blend of green foliage with all times yellow flower bearing *Yellow Trumpet* trees is yet another attraction of trees. A row of *Royal palm* along side of the road gives a majestic look.

Butterflies, bees, wasps, flies and insects are busy enough buzzing on the flowers blooming over the trees, for their sweet nectaries; birds including Cuckoo, Treepie, Parrots, Flowerpecker, Common Myna, Paradise flycatcher, Golden Oriole and many other avian species, ants, spiders, bats, lizards, squirrels find the Campus Trees' as their perfect abodes and interact ecologically. Birds foraging the fruits offered from the trees. This association of living creatures thus creates an ecosystem of trees forming a fostering ecosystem. In this regard, Thiagarajar College campus trees are not only benefiting to its beautiful natural landscape; but also educating everyone on the strength of association among the organisms, extending towards sustainable living.

Details of all 65 tree species have been prepared for the web content, to be included in the College website (www.tcarts.in). The detail includes the real photographs, of the trees growing in the campus with a closer look of their flowers, common names, scientific name, family, flowering

period, utility values including the medicinal uses and its location in the campus. Some sample detail for the web content of Thiagarajar Campus Trees is provided in Plates 1–3.

The tree diversity of Thiagarajar College Campus further makes a message on the value of nature conservation and additional learning could be made from such wonderful creatures through observing their mighty presence. For nature lovers, the College Campus is a worthy place, to visit and to experience its serenity.

Table 1: Diversity of tree species present in Thiagarajar College Campus

Botanical Name	Vernacular Name(s)	Family
<i>Adina cordifolia</i>	Yellow Teak, Manjakadambu	Rubiaceae
<i>Aeglemarmelos</i>	Bilva, Koovilam, Vilvam	Rutaceae
<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i>	Indian Tree of heaven, Perumaram, Theekuchimaram	Simaroubaceae
<i>Albizialebeck</i>	Indian Siris, Vagai	Mimosaceae
<i>Albiziasaman</i>	Rain tree, Thungumoonchivagai	Mimosaceae
<i>Albiziaprocera</i>	White Siris, Velvagai	Mimosaceae
<i>Annonasquamosa</i>	Custard Apple, Sitapazham	Annonaceae
<i>Azadirachtaindica</i>	Neem, Vembu	Meliaceae
<i>Bauhinia rufescens</i>	Mountain Eboni, Mantharai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>	Mountain Eboni, Mantharai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Mountain Eboni, Mantharai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Bombaxceiba</i>	Silk cotton tree, Mull Elavam	Bombacaceae
<i>Caesalpinia coriaria</i>	Divi-divi, Inki Maram	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherima</i>	Peacock flower, Mayilkondrai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Cassia siamea</i>	Kondrai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Casuarina, Chavuku	Casuarinaceae
<i>Ceibapentandra</i>	Silk cotton tree, Elavam	Bombacaceae
<i>Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i>	Yellow Palm	Arecaceae
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Lemon tree, Elumichai	Rutaceae
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut tree, Thennai	Arecaceae
<i>Crateva religiosa</i>	Caper tree, Mavalingam	Capparaceae
<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	Sago palm, Chalaipanai	Cycadaceae
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Indian Rose wood, Thothakathi	Fabaceae
<i>Dalbergia sisoo</i>	Indian Rose wood, Thothakathi	Fabaceae
<i>Delonix regia</i>	May Flower Tree, Gulmohr, Chenkondrai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Banyan Tree, Aalamaram,	Moraceae
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Pipal Tree, Arasaram,	Moraceae
<i>Ficus tsiela</i>	Bat tree, Ichi	Moraceae
<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	Quick stick, Pasunthazhai	Fabaceae

<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Beech wood tree, Kumil	Verbenaceae
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i>	Pigeon wood, Karupattikaimaram	Sterculiaceae
<i>Lanneacoromandelica</i>	Indian ash tree, Uthi	Anacardiaceae
<i>Madhucaindica</i>	Butter tree, Iluppai	Sapotaceae
<i>Mangiferaindica</i>	Mango tree Mamaram	Anacardiaceae
<i>Millingtoniahortensis</i>	Tree jasmine, Mara malli	Bignoniaceae
<i>Mimusopselengi</i>	Spanish cherry, Elangi	Sapotaceae
<i>Mitragynaparviflora</i>	Kalm, NeerKadamban	Rubiaceae
<i>Morindatinctoria</i>	Manchanathi, Nuna	Rubiaceae
<i>Morus alba</i>	Silk cotton tree, Mulberry, Musukottai maram	Moraceae
<i>Muntingiacalabura</i>	Calabur tree, Then pazham	Elaeocarpaceae
<i>Murrayakoenigii</i>	Curry leaf tree, Kariveppilai	Rutaceae
<i>Murrayapaniculata</i>	Satin wood, Venkarai	Rutaceae
<i>Nyctanthesarbor-tristis</i>	Coral Jasmine, Pavizhamalli	Oleaceae
<i>Parkiabiglandulosa</i>	Badminton Ball tree , Poopanthumaram,	Mimosaceae
<i>Peltophorumpterocarpum</i>	Pencil tree, Ayalvagai	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Pithacelobiumdulce</i>	Monkey pod tree, Kodukkapuli	Mimosaceae
<i>Plumeriaobtusa</i>	Singapore graveyard flower, Perunkalli	Apocyanaceae
<i>Plumeriarubra</i>	Singapore graveyard flowerPerunkalli	Apocyanaceae
<i>Polyalthialongifolia</i>	Buddha tree, Nettiilingam	Annonaceae
<i>Pongamiapinnata</i>	Indian beech, Pungamaram	Fabaceae
<i>Psidiumguajava</i>	Guva fruit tree, Koyya maram	Myrtaceae
<i>Roystonea regia</i>	Royal Palm	Arecaceae
<i>Santalum album</i>	Sandal wood tree, Chanthanam	Santalaceae
<i>Sapindusemarginatus</i>	Soap nut treePoonthikottai,	Sapindaceae
<i>Simaroubaglauca</i>	Paradise tree, Sorgamaram	Simaroubaceae
<i>Syzygiumcumini</i>	Indian Jamun tree, Naaval	Myrtaceae
<i>Tabebuiarosea</i>	Rosy trumpet tree, Kaanchi	Bignoniaceae
<i>Tabernaemontanadivaricata</i>	Pinwheel flower, Nandhiyarvattai	Apocyanaceae
<i>Tamarindusindica</i>	Tamrind tree, Puliya maram	Caesalpiniaceae
<i>Tecomastans</i>	Yellow trumpet flower, ThangaArali	Bignoniaceae
<i>Tectonagrandis</i>	Teak, Tekku	Verbenaceae
<i>Terminaliacatappa</i>	Indian Almond tree, Vadumai	Combretaceae
<i>Thespesiapopulnea</i>	Indian Tulip tree, Poovarasu	Malvaceae
<i>Vitexdoniana</i>	Chaste tree, Nochi	Verbenaceae
<i>Wrightiatinctoria</i>	Ivory wood tree, Vepaalai	Apocyanaceae
<i>Holopteleaintegrifolia</i>	Indian Elm, Aaya	Ulmaceae

Plate 1: Tree details, prepared for Thiagarajar College website (www.tcartns.in)





<i>Albizia saman</i> (Thunku vagai)	<i>Albizia lebbbeck</i> (Vagai)
	
<p>Other Names: Cow Tamarind; Rain Tree(Eng.); Gulabi siris (Hindi); Biliti siris(Beng.)</p> <p>Plant Name: <i>Albizia saman</i> (Boj. ex Hook.) Raf.</p> <p>Family : Mimosaceae</p> <p>Flower Color: Pink</p> <p>Flowering season: Throughout Year</p> <p>Medicinal Uses: It is a folk remedy for colds, diarrhea, headache, intestinal ailments, and stomachache</p> <p>Other Uses: Avenue tree, Shade tree, especially in parks, pastures, and roadsides Ornamental</p> <p>Location of the campus: Road side near the main ground</p>	<p>Other Names: Woman's tongue; Flea tree(Eng); Pit Shirish Shirisha (Sanskrit)</p> <p>Plant Name: <i>Albizia lebbbeck</i> (L.) Benth.</p> <p>Family : Mimosaceae</p> <p>Flower Color : Greenish-yellow</p> <p>Flowering season: Throughout Year</p> <p>Medicinal Uses: It is an astringent, also used by some cultures to treat boils, cough, to treat the eye, flu, gingivitis, lung problems, pectoral problems, is used as a tonic, and is used to treat abdominal tumors</p> <p>Other Uses: Avenue tree, Shade tree, especially in parks, pastures, and roadsides Ornamental</p> <p>Location of the campus: Inner-side of the Hand-ball ground</p>
	

Plate 2: Tree details, prepared for Thiagarajar College website (www.tcartis.in)





<i>Bauhinia rufescens</i> (Mantharam)	<i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i> (Mantharam)
	
Other Names: Bidi Leaf Tree; (Eng.); katmauli (Hindi); Arampaali (Mal.); Banraji(Beng.) & Yugmapatra (Sanskrit)	Other Names: St.Thomas tree; Yellow Bell(Eng); Kachnar(Hin.)
Plant Name: <i>Bauhinia rufescens</i> Lam.	Plant Name: <i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i> L.
Family : Caesalpiniaceae	Family : Caesalpiniaceae
Flower Color: Greenish Yellow	Flower Color : Pale yellow
Flowering season: Throughout Year	Flowering season: Throughout Year
Medicinal Uses: It is generally healing; small-pox, chicken-pox, measles leprosy, diarrhoea, dysentery. antidotes (venomous stings, bites, etc.)	Medicinal Uses: It is used for cough conditions, asthma, abdominal distention also acts as a gargle for sore throats, prevent from skin diseases, or internally as a remedy for diarrhoea.
Other Uses: Ornamental and especially in parks,	Other Uses: It is suitable for rockeries, shrub borders, and large containers, on patios or next to swimming pools
Location of the campus: Fencing corner of Valluvar Illam.	Location of the campus: In front of the main Block
	

Plate 3: Tree details, prepared for Thiagarajar College website (www.tcartis.in)

Annona squamosa (Sitapazham)



Other Names: Custard apple,
Sugar-Pineapple(Eng.);Ata (Hindi);
Sitaphal(Sanskrit)
Plant Name:
Annona squamosa L.
Family : Annonaceae
Flower Color: Greenish Yellow
Flowering season: June-July
Medicinal Uses: It is used as diarrhea,
annonaine, an alkaloid, dysentery,
haematinic, cooling, sedative, stimulant
and expectorant, maturant, tonic.
Other Uses: Tree for fruits,
Location of the campus:
Opposite of Medicinal garden.

Azadirachta indica (Veppu)



Other Names: Neem(Eng.);
Nim(Hin. & Beng.); Nimba(Sans.)
Plant Name:
Azadirachta indica A. Juss.
Family : Meliaceae
Flower Color : White
Flowering season: February - May
Medicinal Uses: Anti-inflammatory;
Antiarthritic; Antipyretic;
Hypoglycaemic; Antigastric ulcer;
Spermicidal; Antifungal,
Antimalarial; Antitumour;
Immunomodulatory etc.
Other Uses: Landscaping tree;
Shade plant and Timber.
Location of the campus:
Several places of Campus