Madagascar Almond

Terminalia catappa

Code: XIM-T-068 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** କାଠ ବାଦାମ

Description

XIM University campus biodiversity register (2026–27). Recorded individuals: 4; abundance rank: 35.

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Deciduous Flowers / Fruits: Flowers are small, white-green, and arranged on slender spikes. Fruits are large , fibrous drupes that change from green to yellow and then red. Native range: Native to Tropical Asia, particularly India to Malaysia, and widely naturalized across Pacific islands.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: The Madagascar almond is ecologically important in coastal regions because its wide canopy creates shade, its fruits feed birds, bats, and fish, and its strong roots prevent shoreline erosion. The tree also contributes leaf litter to coastal waters, supporting nutrient cycles and detritusbased aquatic food webs.

Medicinal: Terminalia catappa leaves, bark, and seeds are widely used in traditional medicine for their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and antioxidant effects. Leaf extracts help treat diarrhea, dysentery, and skin infections, while the bark is used for fever and wound healing. The nuts are considered nutritious and support overall vitality.

Cultural: The tropical almond holds cultural value in coastal communities for its use in traditional ceremonies, shade gatherings, and community spaces. Its leaves and wood are used in local crafts, while the tree often symbolizes shelter, protection, and stability in folklore, appearing in songs, stories, and seasonal festivals.

Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

Directions: https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&travelmode=walking&destination=20.15860192%2C85.76535449