Tropical Almond

Terminalia catappa

Code: XIM-T-027 **Location:** XIM University Campus **Local / Vernacular name:** କାଠ ବାଦାମ

Description

XIM University campus biodiversity register (2026–27). Recorded individuals: 94; abundance rank: 4.

Botanical Details

Leaf habit: Deciduous Flowers / Fruits: The flowers are small, greenish-white, and not very showy, but they later develop into edible almond-like seeds. Native range: Tropical almond is native to South and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Northern Australia.

Uses & Importance

Ecological: It provides extensive shade, creating cooler microclimates in coastal and tropical regions, while playing a crucial role in preventing coastal soil erosion. The tree’s strong and spreading root system helps bind loose, sandy soils, protecting shorelines from wind and water erosion and contributing to the stability of coastal ecosystems. By offering habitat and food, it supports biodiversity, sheltering birds, insects, and small animals. Additionally, its fallen leaves decompose to enrich the soil with organic matter, improving soil fertility and moisture retention in otherwise nutrient-poor sandy environments. Through soil stabilization, nutrient cycling, and habitat support, the tree is vital for maintaining the resilience and ecological balance of sandy and coastal landscapes.

Medicinal: Medicinally, the leaves, bark, and fruit of the tropical almond are widely used in folk medicine. The leaves have antibacterial and antifungal properties and are commonly used to treat skin diseases, inflammation, and digestive issues.

Cultural: Culturally and traditionally, the **tropical almond (*Terminalia catappa*)** is valued in many tropical regions for the **broad shade** provided by its distinctive, tiered canopy and for its **ornamental beauty**, especially as its leaves turn striking shades of red and yellow before falling. It is commonly planted along roadsides, beaches, parks, and residential areas, where it serves both aesthetic and practical purposes. In several coastal and island cultures, the **leaves and fruits** are used in **traditional practices and local remedies**, including folk medicine and household treatments. However, unlike culturally sacred trees such as the **banyan or peepal**, the tropical almond holds **less direct religious or spiritual significance**, and its importance is largely functional and cultural rather than ritualistic, reflecting its role in everyday life, traditional knowledge, and tropical landscape identity
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Location

GPS: 20.15860192, 85.76535449

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