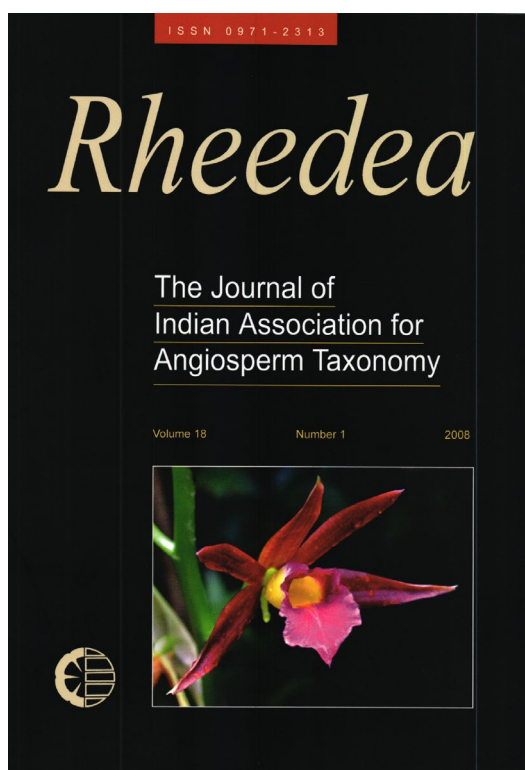




## Book Review: Common Trees of KAU (Kerala Agricultural University) Main Campus

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consolidating information on reproductive ecology of plant species so far worked out in India. The author deserves appreciation for this venture.

This book also enlightens, though not discussed, about the gaps we have to fill up in the immediate

future when we deal with our endemic species in terms of evolving strategies for conserving them.

**T. S. Nayar and S. Suresh**  
(Thiruvananthapuram)

S. Gopakumar 2007

**Common Trees of KAU(Kerala Agricultural University) Main Campus.** CD Ver.1, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, KAU Post, Thrissur, Kerala, India. URL: <http://www.kau.edu>

Price not given



This interactive CD takes us for a short journey to the details of 161 common tree species growing in the campus of Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. There are four search options: one for family and other three for Scientific,

English and Local names. Family search option provides an index to family names and to display of species names in the family. When any of the Scientific, English or Local names are selected, the species is displayed with photographs and details like habit, flower colour, uses and notes on the family and the species. There are provisions to print and export data and view the photographs in large format. Minimum system requirement only is needed to run the CD. It runs with a background music.

An introduction in the home page explaining the concept and functioning of the CD would have been helpful to the user. If the team were making use of the expertise of a plant taxonomist some errors could have been avoided. *Ravenala madagascariensis* Sonn. (not *Ravenala madagaseariensis*) belongs to Musaceae and not Palmae (Arecaceae). The picture given for *Borassus flabellifer* L. is the picture of *Livistona rotundifolia* (Lam.) Mart. Authors are not cited for many scientific names. There are errors in author citation also (eg. *Buchanania axillaris* (Desr.) Ramam. and not *Buchanania axillaris* Desr.). Some plants delt in the CD are not trees (*Jatropha curcas* L., *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (L.) Sw., *Helicteres isora* L.). It would have been more user friendly if English and Malayalam names were listed in alphabetical order in search window. When a name not listed in the CD is entered no negative answer is displayed.

In spite of such minor errors, a CD of this nature evolving a good presentation concept is timely. The layout is attractive and colour combinations used are sober. Photographs keep good quality. The CD is definitely useful for college students, especially those who use electronic media for educational purposes; so also common people interested in plants around.

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