

Pongam Oil Tree

Common name: Pongam Oil Tree, Indian Beech

Botanical name: *Pongamia pinnata*

Family: Faboideae

Name in Tamil: *Pongam*



Field identification: Medium sized, nearly evergreen tree with short trunk and umbrella-shaped crown. Grey bark, become rough with age. Leaves 5,7, or 9 opposite leaflets oblong and abruptly pointed, with terminal leaflet. Flowers white tinged with pink or violet 1.3 cm long in conical clusters. Pods woody 3.8-5 x 1.8-2.5 cm green turning yellowish grey when ripe.

Location on campus: Scattered across campus. E.g. Southern side of Basketball court.

References: (i) Sahni, K.C. (1998) The Book of Indian Trees. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p98. (ii) Krishen, P. (2006) Trees of Delhi: A field guide. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p256-257. (iii) Randhawa M.S (1983) Flowering trees. New Delhi, National Book Trust. p107-109