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**A HANDBOOK OF FLORAL DIVERSITY OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE, WEST BENGAL**

Suman Datta, Rituparna Pandit & Sayantani Sen

# A HANDBOOK OF FLORAL DIVERSITY OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE, WEST BENGAL



*Suman Datta  
Rituparna Pandit  
Sayantani Sen*



# **A Handbook of Floral Diversity of Serampore College, West Bengal**

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First published in 2022

By

SAIARD Publication

87/210, Raja S. C. Mallik Road, Kolkata- 700047

Email: [saiardpublication@gmail.com](mailto:saiardpublication@gmail.com)

Website: [www.saiard.co.in](http://www.saiard.co.in)

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**A Handbook of Floral Diversity of Serampore College, West Bengal**

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ISBN No.: 978-81-954965-1-8

Price: 1300/- (Thirteen hundred only)

Printed By: SAIARD

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Serampore College administration, for the permission and support to conduct the entire field survey and subsequent documentation.

I am really indebted to Dr. Subhadeep Sarker, Associate Professor in Zoology and Joint Convenor, Biodiversity Club, Serampore College, for his constant support and guidance to complete the survey and publication of this book. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Subrata Maiti, Executive Council Member, Botanical Society of Bengal, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta for sharing his in depth knowledge on wild plants. I am grateful to Dr. Manoj Emanuel Hembrom, Botanist, BSI and Ms. Pamela Saha, Ex SRF, BSI, for their help in the identification of Fungi and Bryophytes respectively.

I would wish to express my sincere thanks to the co-authors – Rituparna Pandit and. Sayantani Sen, for their enormous efforts in completion of this book, without which it would not have been possible for me to complete the work.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college for their kind cooperation during the work.

Last but not the least, I would also express my sincere gratitude to my wife, Dr. Rimi Datta, without whose active support and constructive criticisms, neither any academic endeavour nor any environmental commitment on my part would have been completed.

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Assistant Professor in Botany

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# FOREWORD

Plants are at the centre of all life on earth. Not only do they harness energy that sustains all life forms including us, but they also sustain and enrich us in myriads of other ways - economical, ecological, psychological, cultural, aesthetic and spiritual, just to mention a few of them. Our physical and psychological health largely depend upon their existence and today there are ample evidence in favour of that.

But in today's technology driven life, are we paying due attention and offering due respect to these sources of our sustenance? Are we not drifting, often without our conscious control and perception, from the age old values regarding the contributions of green cover in our life? These questions often haunt our committed and conscious minds but the answers are not easy to obtain. Today's even the most conscious mankind is confused between two contrasting worlds... one endowed with technological advancement, comfort and luxury and the other, with compelling scientific evidence in favour of need of protection of nature for our very existence, spiritual uplift, peace and intellectual prosperity. The dilemma is not easy to resolve.

From such confusing situation, we need to rise. We, the people of academic sector, need to do our bit to ensure the best possible dividends obtainable from academic enlightenment. This was exactly the start point of the present endeavor. Biodiversity Club of this college took up the responsibility of documenting what we have in the college campus. The campus experiences hundreds of footfalls every day. Most of the stake holders being students, still possess tender and sensitive minds that appreciate all life forms and can be made to be intimately associated and committed to those, with little orientation.

It gives me a kind of ultimate satisfaction to be associated with the club that has been so sincere in documentation of the Floristic Diversity of the college campus. It is very heart warming to see how every bit of greenery in the campus has been meticulously and painstakingly documented in the present effort. Kudos to the spirited team that undertook this tedious job! Let this be the humble but very significant beginning of an everlasting saga of love, respect and association of our urban degraded soul with the form of life that never demands, only provides.

**Dr. Subhadeep Sarker**

Associate Professor in Zoology

&

Joint Convenor

Biodiversity Club

Serampore College

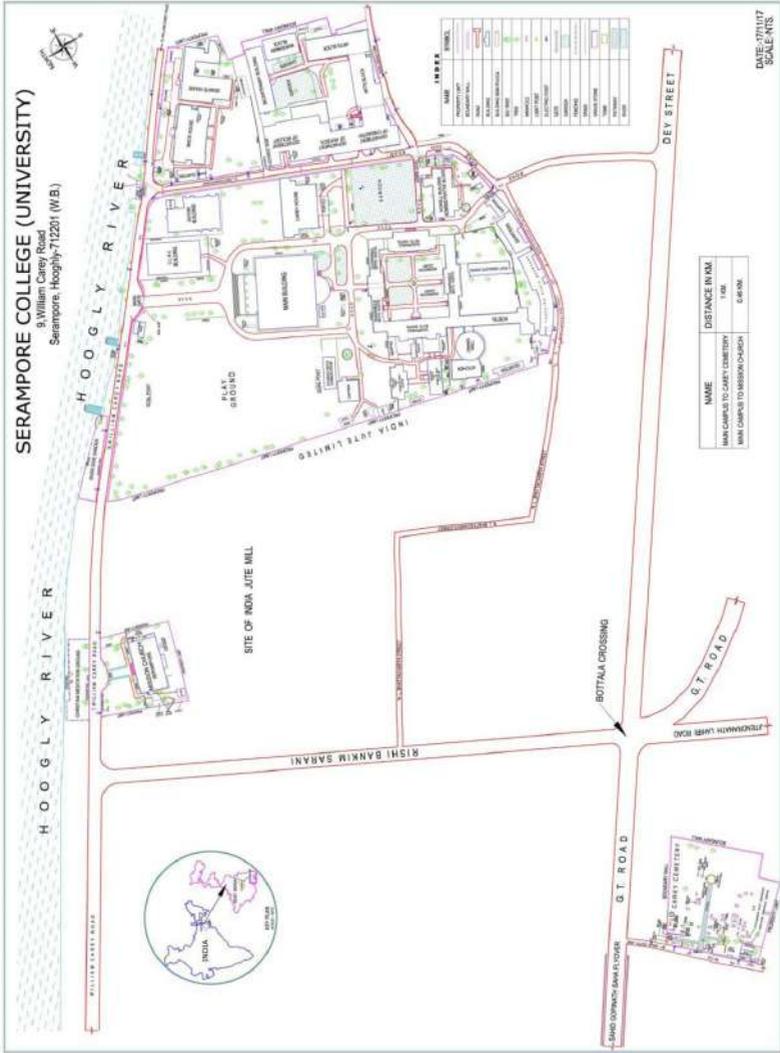
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**Satellite imagery of Serampore College, Hooghly, West Bengal**

*Floristic Diversity of Serampore College Campus*





**Serampore College Main Building during Bicenentary Celebrations**



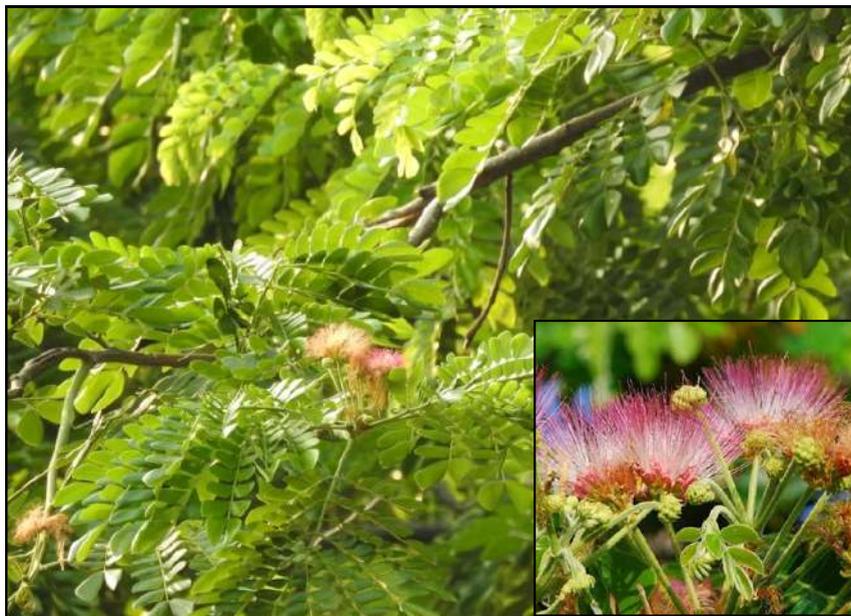
**Biology Block Entrance**

# TREES



*Albizia amara* Boivin

Mimosaceae (Fabaceae)



**Common name:** Jal Sirish (B), Monkey pod tree (E)

**Description:** A small tree; leaves 2-pinnate, densely pubescent with a small gland about the middle of the petiole and another in between the uppermost pair of pinnae, stipules minute, pinnae 6-15 pairs. Leaflets 10-30 pairs, sessile. Flowers sub-sessile, fragrant, in a cluster of 12-20 in the flower heads. Calyx funnel-shaped, toothed. Corolla pinkish-white, funnel shaped, toothed. Pods stalked, thin, flat, abruptly pointed, transversely veined. Seeds 6-8.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** March - December

**Uses:** Used as astringent and in piles, diarrhoea, gonorrhoea, white leprosy, boils, ophthalmia, eruptions

**Total no.:** 2

**Nativity:** Southern and Eastern Africa, from South Africa to Sudan and Ethiopia. It is also found in India and Sri Lanka

**Location in college:** On the way towards CLRC, behind Principal's quarter.

*Averrhoa carambola* L.

Oxalidaceae



**Common name:** Kamranga (B), Carambola (E), Kamrakh (H)

**Description:** A small tree up to 3-12 m tall, densely branched, young parts finely pubescent or glabrous. Leaves 7-25 cm; leaflets 5-13, leaflet ovate to elliptic, base obliquely rounded, apex acute to acuminate. Inflorescences axillary, panicles or cymes, branches and flower buds crimson. Flowers numerous, small. Sepals narrowly elliptic, 3-5 mm, base sparingly pubescent. Petals white with purple markings or pink to red with darker markings. Shorter stamens sterile, occasionally 1 or 2 fertile. Ovary pubescent. Berry yellow to yellow-brown, oblong, deeply 5 or 6-ribbed, stellate in cross-section, very fleshy. Seeds numerous, blackish brown.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** April - December

**Uses:** Used in rheumatism, high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, cough & cold, laxative

**Total no.:** 1

**Nativity:** Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent

**Location in college:** In the Arts Block Garden.

*Brownea coccinea* Jacq.

Caesalpinaceae (Fabaceae)



**Common name:** Supti (B), Lal Zumber (H), Scarlet flame bean (E)

**Description:** A small tree with large heads of orange-red flowers, 6-8 inches across, which hang primarily beneath the foliage, on older branches. Exotic looking flowers not visible from outside; leaves pinnately compound, leaflets up to 6 pairs, 6 inches long and 2 -3 inches wide, sometimes with one terminal leaflet, pink-brown and pendulous when young. Fruit - a woody pod about 6 inches long and 5 -2 inches broad.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** January - May

**Uses:** Used in hemorrhages, in women's diseases such as menorrhagia and menstrual pains; infusion as laxative and cooling; in whooping cough and tuberculosis

**Total no.:** 2

**Nativity:** Guyana, Venezuela, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago

**Location in college:** Besides the gate of Theology Hostel main entrance.

*Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (L.) Sw.

Cesalpinaceae (Fabaceae )



**Common name:** Krishna Chura (B), Guletura (H), Peacock flower (E)

**Description:** A small tree up to 2-3 m ; branches smooth, glabrous, with a few prickles. Leaves stipulate, alternate, bipinnate, pinnae 6-12 pairs, leaflets oblong, notched at apex. Flowers bracteate (deciduous), red or yellow, in terminal racemes. Calyx tube short, glabrous, 4-lobed, one sepal larger, red or orange. Petals 5, free, distinctly clawed, limbs orbicular, variously coloured with red and golden yellow along with narrow golden margin. Stamens 10, free, filaments long, red, anthers versatile. Fruit: flat pod.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** May - December

**Uses:** Used as purgative, tonic, abortifacient and in stomachache

**Total no.:** 1

**Nativity:** West Indies

**Location in college:** Besides the main gate towards river side.

*Carissa carandas* L.

Apocynaceae



**Common name:** Karamcha (B), Karonda (H), Bengal currant, Karanda (E)

**Description:** A small bushy, evergreen tree, with a short stem; branchlet with thin, stout, sharp, horizontal, glabrous spines at their base. Leaves coriaceous, elliptic or obovate, obtuse, base subacute, petioled. Flowers white, scarcely odorous, pubescent, in terminal corymbose cymes. Calyx deep purplish red; corolla tube pinkish, elongate. Fruit ellipsoid, purplish red when ripe, smooth, edible. Seeds 4 or more.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** March - October

**Uses:** Used as astringent, expectorant, stomachic and in remittent fever, itch

**Total no.:** 1

**Nativity:** The Himalayas, Western Ghats and also in Nepal and Afghanistan

**Location in college:** Towards the entrance of CLRC.

*Cinnamomum cassia* (L.) J. Presl.

Lauraceae



**Common name:** Daruchini (B), False cinnamon, Chinese cinnamon (E)

**Description:** A moderate sized evergreen tree; leaves opposite or sub-opposite, hard and coriaceous, ovate or ovate lanceolate, sub-acute, glabrous and shining above, slightly paler beneath; main nerves 3-5. Flowers numerous, in silky pubescent, lax panicles. Peduncles and pedicels long. Perianth segments pubescent on both sides. Fruit oblong or ovoid-oblong, dark purple, dry, surrounded by the enlarged campanulate perianth. Seeds with thin testa.

**Flowering and Fruiting time:** March - September

**Uses:** Used as aromatic, astringent, carminative and in diarrhoea, flatulence, aphomia, heart diseases

**Total no.:** 1

**Nativity:** Southern China

**Location in college:** In the Medicinal Plant Garden.

*Psathyrella candolleana* (Fr.) Maire

Psathyrellaceae



**Type:** Gilled Fungi

**Description:** Fruiting bodies small to medium sized, solitary or in groups, delicate. Cap rounded conical to convex when young, broadly convex to bell shaped when mature; upper surface covered with squamules when young, soon glabrous, weakly sulcate, pale brown when young, almost white when mature. Margin crenate to striate. Gills free, 14–16 per cm, rather crowded, chalky white when young, greyish to dark brown when mature. Flesh papery thin, fragile, brown. Stalk cylindrical, equal, hollow, covered with fine fibres, chalky white. Spore print dark purplish brown. Spores moderately thick-walled, smooth, dark brown.

**Season:** August - September

**Notes:** Inedible. Common. Fragile young fruiting bodies with chalky white squamules on pale brown cap are worth mentioning features.

**Location in the campus:** In the garden on soil among leaf litters.

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