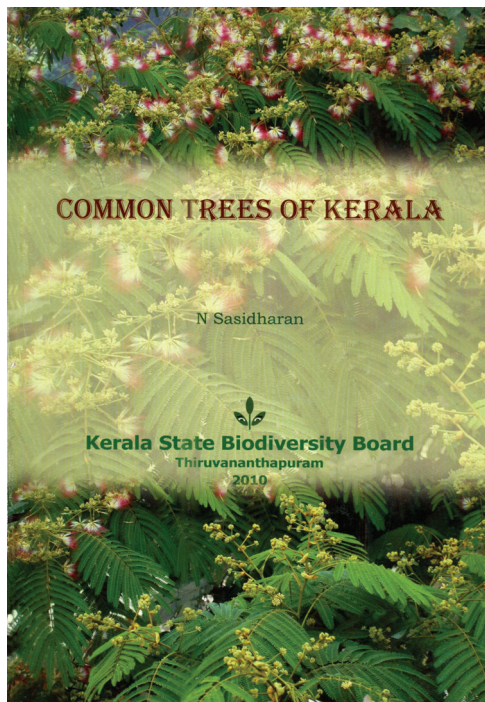


Book Review

N. Sasidharan 2010

Common Trees of Kerala

Published by Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Thiruvananthapuram 695 024, Kerala, India. Paper back, 23.5x16 cm. ISBN 978 81 920338 0 8, price not given. Pages 178 + xii



This handbook treats 164 tree species commonly found in sacred groves, homesteads, avenues, parks and plantations in Kerala. Each species, devoting one page for one species, is described

and supported with colour photographs showing habits, flowers and fruits. Barks and their cut surfaces are also shown in photographs for many species. The book gives Malayalam, English and Trade (if any) names, besides phenology, habitats in Kerala, world distribution and general uses for each species. It has a use-wise index, glossary of taxonomic terminology and indices to scientific, Malayalam, English and Trade names.

Though the book has exotics like *Jacaranda mimosifolia* D. Don and cultivated like *Theobroma cacao* L., common monocot trees such as coconut and arecanut have not found their place in it. Description given may not be comprehended by a common person as it is done using terse taxonomic terminologies. However, photographs may give helpful hints to identify the species

If the crowded and fancy lay out and unfriendly colour combinations on pages were avoided and if the colour production was better, this handbook would have been more attractive. However, it is a useful book for any common person who takes interest in trees in and around

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