

Banyan

**Common name:** Banyan

**Botanical name:** *Ficus benghalensis*

**Family:** Moraceae; **Name in Tamil:** *Alai*



**Field identification:** Huge spreading tree with aerial roots descending from branches, which then take root, thicken and become trunks. Leaves leathery, oval-shaped 8-20 cm with thick leaf stalks 2.5-5 cm long. Figs, in pairs, globular and stalkless

**Location on Campus:**  
Scattered. E.g. Alumni House, Scudder Crescent, Mental Health Centre, East End Road, Allai Road

**References:** (i) Sahni, K.C. (1998) The Book of Indian Trees. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p 154-155. (ii) Menon S, Bagla P. (1999) Trees of India. New Delhi, Timeless Books. p98-99 (iii) Krishen P. (2006) Trees of Delhi: A field guide. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p102-103