

Fish Tail Palm

Common name: Fish Tail Palm

Botanical name: *Caryota urens*

Family: Areaceae; **Name in Tamil:** *Tippili; Kontalpanai*



Field identification: Fast growing palm, up to 15 m tall, 0.5 m diameter. Trunk cylindrical, grey with clear rings well spaced out. Crown of gracefully ascending, curved long shining bright green leaves, up to 6 m long; leaflet lobed like fin of a fish. Spadix (spike of flowers), shaped like a horse's tail. Fruit size of peepal fig.

Location on campus: Few E.g. College Chapel, Sunken garden

References:

1. Blatter, E. & Millard, W.S. (1997) Some Beautiful Indian Trees. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p183
2. Krishen, P. (2006) Trees of Delhi: A field guide. Dorling Kindersley, New Delhi. p308-9.
3. Flowers of India. www.flowersofindia.net

Compiled by Dr. K. S. Jacob,
(former Head, Dept. of Psychiatry,
CMC Vellore)