

Scholar Tree

Common name: Scholar Tree, Devil's Tree

Botanical name: *Alstonia scholaris*

Family: Apocynaceae

Name in Tamil: *Pala*



Field identification: Large, evergreen tree, often fluted or buttressed. Bark grey. Branches whorled, exude milky latex when cut. Leaves whorled 7.5-20 x 2.5-3.7 cm, oblong-lance-shaped, round or notched. Lateral nerves parallel uniting at margin in a distinct vein. Flowers, small, greenish white in clusters.

Location on campus: Scudder Crescent

References:

1. Sahni, K.C. (1998) The Book of Indian Trees. Mumbai: Bombay Natural History Society/ Oxford University Press. p130-131.
2. Menon S, Bagla P. (1999) Trees of India. New Delhi, Timeless Books.

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