

Issue 18
28 April

KYC

Know Your Campus

About the initiative

The New Forest – the IFS training campus – an area which houses the FRI and its sister institutions including the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to a rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become a part of our neighbourhood while we are at the campus. The campus is also adorned with heritage buildings, museums, nurseries and a beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making us more familiar with our neighbourhood.

Ginkgo biloba

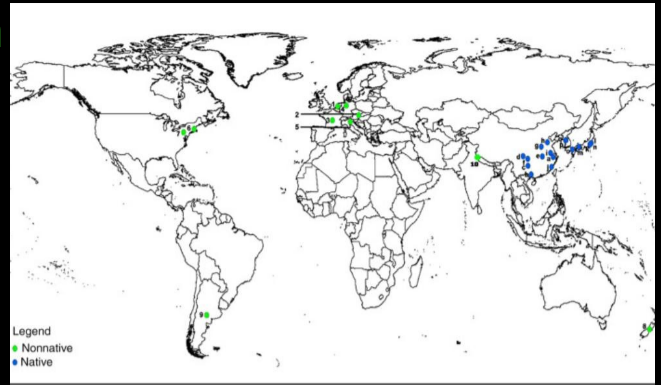
The maiden - hair tree. Also known as the fossil tree - an endangered and only remaining tree specie of Ginkgophyta divison - is an important one in FRI Botanical Garden.



Scientific Name : **Ginkgo biloba**

Family : **Ginkgoaceae**

Conservation status : **Endangered**



Distribution and habitat :

Once widespread throughout the world, its range is now restricted to a small area of China. Here it occurs in the wild, infrequently in deciduous forests and valleys on acidic loess (i.e. fine, silty soil) with good drainage.

In China and Japan it is grown as a sacred tree in temple gardens. It is cultivated in the United States as a shade tree. It is also successfully cultivated in some gardens of Europe, America and India.

Description :

- Large trees, normally reaching a height of 20–35 m (66–115 ft), with some in China being over 50 m (160 ft).

- Angular crown and long, somewhat erratic branches

- usually deep rooted and resistant to wind and snow damage.

- leaves are unique among seed plants, being fan-shaped with veins radiating out into the leaf blade.

- male and female trees are separated



The Living Fossil :

- one of the oldest living tree species, existing for more than 250 million years .
- record of being eaten by dinosaurs.
- exceptional resistance to weather, pests and pollution.

Uses :

Traditional medicine -

- treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Dietary supplement -

- extracts of leaf sold as dietary supplements

Horticulture -

- ornamental tree
- popularly grown as penjing and bonsai; they can be kept artificially small and tended over centuries.

Cooking -

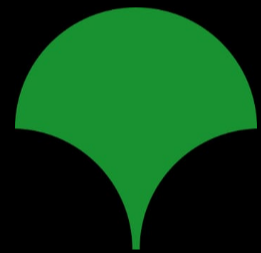
- seeds served with boiled coconut flesh as a dessert in Thailand.



Cross section of 2500 years old tree

Did you know?

Ginkgo biloba is the official symbol of Tokyo, Japan



It was also the pioneer species that reflourished after the Hiroshima nuclear attack in Japan

Ginkgo biloba is well preserved in the FRI Botanical Garden and saplings being made at its nursery. Such conservation is necessary to save the specie from extinction

Text : Akshay Bhorde, IFS 2019
Design : Kasturi Sule, IFS 2019

Photographs : Google