

Bambusa bambos

Kotoha ASSAM | *Behor bans* BENGAL | *Mula, Mullumula, Eanimula, Paruva* KERALA | *Kanta bans* ORISSA | *Nal bans* PUNJAB | *Mungi* TAMIL NADU | *Bongu veduru, Mulla veduru* ANDHRA PRADESH

TREE FORM | DENSE CLUMP | GREGARIOUS | SPINES PRESENT



Habitat

Attains the best growth in moist deciduous forests up to an altitude of 1000 metres. Prefers rich and moist soil, and thrives near perennial rivers and valleys.

Distribution

Found almost throughout India, and is common in Central and South India.

Culm

The culm is up to 30 metres tall, dark green, erect, strong and hollow. Spiny branches arise from the base.

Culm sheath

The culm sheath is 12–45 cm long and 10–36 cm broad at the base. It has a leathery texture, and is dark maroon or yellowish, lacking a perfect auricle.

The blade is erect, triangular and wrinkled, with a smooth outer surface and inner side covered with dark brown velvety hairs.

Flowering

Gregarious. Flowers at long intervals (40–60 years), and the clump/plant dies after flowering.

Fruit

One-seeded grain, 0.5–0.6 cm long, which is smooth, grooved on one side and short-beaked.

Uses

It is used as raw material for pulp and paper, to make panel products and handicrafts, and for thatching and roofing. The spiny branches are used for fencing. Young shoots and seeds are edible.

DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

- 1 Spiny branches
- 2 Ligule is continuous along the top of the sheath
- 3 Short triangular blade, with a broad sloping and wrinkled base on either side (constituting auricles)
- 4 The inside of the blade is coated with dark brown velvety hairs

