

Vegetation Assessment at Fr. Muller Charitable Institutions, Mangalore

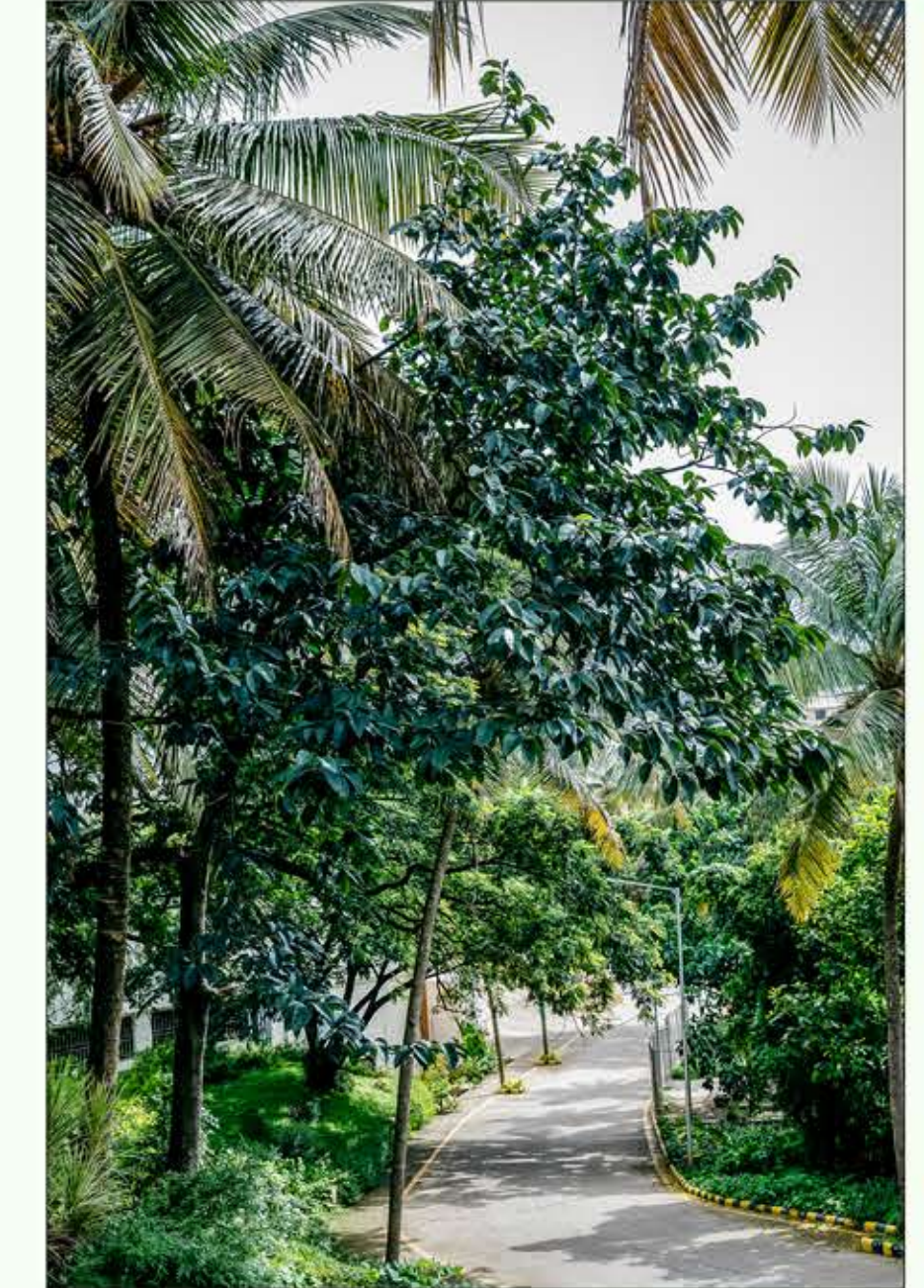


A rapid vegetation assessment was carried out at the Fr. Muller campus, Mangalore, June 2018. The enumeration revealed 71 identified plant species (Table 1) of herbs, shrubs, climbers and trees. Most of these species (~75%) were exotic garden ornamentals while some (~25%) of the plants were native. Some of these native tree species are native to Western Ghats rainforests such as *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Artocarpus hirsutus*, *Caryota urens*, *Magnolia champaca*, *Mangifera indica*, *Mimusops elengi*. Some taxa like *Lantana*, *Agaltonema* and *Ficus benjamina* were observed

in several ornamental varieties and cultivars. Despite the largely exotic origin of these species they support a range of biodiversity such as wild pollinators, small frugivores, insects and micro fauna. As many of the ornamentals flowering plants attract butterflies, hoverflies and nectarivorous birds like sunbirds and flowerpeckers. Small fruit yielding species like *Ficus benjamina* (weeping fig), *Syzygium cuminii* (jamoon), *Polyalthia longifolia* (false asok), *Mimusops elengi* (spanish cherry) and *Muntingia calabura* (singapore cherry) would support several small fruivogores and seed dispersers like bulbuls, barbets, koels, parakeets, bats and squirrels. *Caryota urens* (fish tailed palm) in particular often supports bat roosts. Besides these, larger fruigivores like hornbills, bonnet macaques and civet cats may occasionally visit. As the vegetation supports a multitude of insects and detritus organisms, small insectivorous predators would also be supported like spiders, geckos, calotes, skinks and rodents. The entirety of the system would create a small food web with predators such as kites, shikras, snakes and civets cats on top of the food chain.

Besides the ecological role of these plants, some of them provide uses for humans such as fruit, *Mangifera indica* (mango), *Carica papaya* (papaya), *Anacardium occidentale* (cashew), *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (jackfruit), *Cocos nucifer* (coconut). Plants like *Colocasia esculenta* (taro) and *Basella alba* can be cooked and eaten while *Borassus flabellifer* (palmyra) can produce a jaggery.

The rapid assessment of plants in the Fr. Muller campus revealed a large proportion of exotic species. However as the documentation has been basic and conducted in a short time there are certainly more species to be reported. Additionally the assessment has focused on the common, frequently used areas of the campus. A thorough inventory of the entire campus would expect to find more native species, particularly in the remnant forest fragment and accounting for seasonal natives. It may be recommended that future tree planting be focused more on native species over exotic species.



Some Western Ghat rainforest species *Mimusops elengi* and *Artocarpus hirsutus*

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Notes
Acacia mangium	Mimosaceae	Hickory wattle	Tree	Exotic	A few varieties
Acalypha wilkesiana	Euphorbiaceae	Copperleaf	Shrub	Exotic	
Agave sps	Asparagaceae	Agave	Herb	Exotic	
Aglaonema sps	Araceae	Chinese evergreen	Herb	Exotic	3 varieties
Albizia saman	Mimosaceae	Rain tree	Tree	Exotic	
Allamanda sps1	Apocynaceae	Allamanda yellow	Climber	Exotic	
Allamanda sps2	Apocynaceae	Allamanda red	Climber	Exotic	
Alternanthera bettzickiana	Amaranthaceae	Calico plant	Habit	Exotic	
Anacardium occidentale	Anacardiaceae	Cashew	Tree	Exotic	
Araucaria columnaris	Araucariaceae	Christmas tree, Cook pine	Tree	Exotic	
Areca catechu	Arecaceae	Areca-nut	Tree	Native	
Artocarpus heretophyllus	Moraceae	Jackfruit	Tree	Native	
Artocarpus hirsutus	Moraceae	Wild Jackfruit	Tree	Native	Western Ghats
Asparagus densiflorus	Asparagaceae	Asparagus fern	Herb	Exotic	Western Ghats
Averrhoa bilimbi	Oxalidaceae	Bimbli	Tree	Exotic	
Basella alba	Basellaceae	Malabar spinach, Indian spinach	Climber	Native	
Borassus flabellifer	Araceae	Palmyra, Toddy plam	Tree	Native	
Caesaplinia pulcherrima	Caesalpiniaceae	Peacock flower	Shrub	Exotic	
Canna sps	Cannaceae	Canna	Herb	Exotic	
Carica papaya	Caricaceae	Papaya	Herb	Exotic	
Caryota urens	Arecaceae	Fishtailed plam	Tree	Native	Western Ghats
Catharanthus roseus	Apocynaceae	Madagascar periwinkle	Shrub	Exotic	
Cholorphytum comosum cultivar	Asparagaceae	Spider plant	Herb	Exotic	
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens	Arecaceae	Golden Cane Palm	Tree	Exotic	
Cocos nucifera	Arecaceae	Coconut	Tree	Native	
Colocasia esculenta	Araceae	Taro	Herb	Native	
Croton sps variegated	Euphorbiaceae	Croton	Shrub	Exotic	
Cuphea hyssopifolia	Lythraceae	False heather	Herb	Exotic	
Cynodon dactylon	Poaceae	Bermuda grass	Grass	Native	
Dieffenbachia amoena	Araceae	Dumb cane	Habit	Exotic	
Dracaena sps varigated	Asparagaceae	Dracaena	Herb	Exotic	
Duranta errecta cultivar	Verbenaceae	Golden duranta	Shrub	Exotic	
Epipremnum aureum	Araceae	Money plant, devil's ivy	Climber	Exotic	
Euphorbia milii cultivar	Euphorbiaceae	Crown of thorns	Shrub	Exotic	
Ficus benjamina	Moraceae	Weeping fig	Tree	Exotic	
Ficus pumila	Moraceae	Climbing Fig	Climber	Exotic	A few varieties

Botanical name	Family	Common name	Habit	Origin	Notes
Gliricidia sepium	Fabaceae	Mexican lilac	Tree	Exotic	
Heliconia sps cultivar	Heliconiaceae	Heliconia	Herb	Exotic	
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis	Malvaceae	China rose	Shrub	Exotic	
Hymenocallis littoralis	Amaryllidaceae	Spider lily	Herb	Exotic	
Impatiens sps	Balsaminaceae	Balsam	Herb	Exotic	
Ixora coccinea cultivar	Rubiaceae	Red Ixora	Shrub	Native	
Ixora sps1	Rubiaceae	Ixora	Shrub	Exotic	
Lagerstroemia speciosa	Lythraceae	Queen's Pride	Tree	Native	
Lantana camara	Verbenaceae	Lantana	Shrub	Exotic	
Lantana montevidensis	Verbenaceae	Trailing Lantana	Herb	Exotic	
Lantana sps1	Verbenaceae		Herb	Exotic	
Magnolia champaca	Magnoliaceae	Champa	Tree	Native	
Mangifera indica	Anacardiaceae	Mango	Tree	Native	Western Ghats
Mimusops elengi	Spotaceae	Spanish cherry	Tree	Native	Western Ghats
Muntingia calabura	Muntingiaceae	Singapore cherry, Jamaican cherry	Tree	Exotic	Western Ghats
Peltophorum pterocarpum	Caesalpiniaceae	Copperpod	Tree	Exotic	
Pennisetum setaceum	Poaceae	Crimson fountain grass	Grass	Exotic	
Philodendron sps	Araceae		Herb, Climber	Exotic	
Plectranthus scutellarioides	Lamiaceae	Coleus	Herb	Exotic	
Plumeria alba	Apocynaceae	Pagoda white	Tree	Exotic	
Plumeria rubra	Apocynaceae	Pagoda red	Tree	Exotic	
Polyalthia longifolia	Annonaceae	Flase ashok	Tree	Native	
Pongamia pinnta	Fabaceae	Pongamia	Tree	Native	
Pseuderanthemum sps cultivar	Acanthaceae		Shrub	Exotic	
Roystonea regia	Arecaceae	Royal palm	Tree	Exotic	
Stenotaphrum dimidiatum	Poaceae	Pemba grass	Grass	Native	
Syzygium cumini	Myrtaceae	Jamoon	Tree	Native	
Tabernaemontana divaricata	Apocynaceae	Crape Jasmine	Shrub	Exotic	Western Ghats
Tamarindus indicus	Caesalpiniaceae	Tamarind	Tree	Naturalized	
Tecoma stans	Bignoniaceae	Yellow bells	Tree	Exotic	
Tectona grandis	Verbenaceae	Teak	Tree	Exotic	
Terminalia catappa	Combretaceae	Indian almond	Tree	Native	
Tradescantia spathacea	Commelinaceae	Moses in the cradle	Herb	Exotic	
Tridax procumbens	Asteraceae	Tridax dasy	Herb	Naturalized	
Zephyranthes candida	Amaryllidaceae	White day lily	Herb	Exotic	



Philodendron



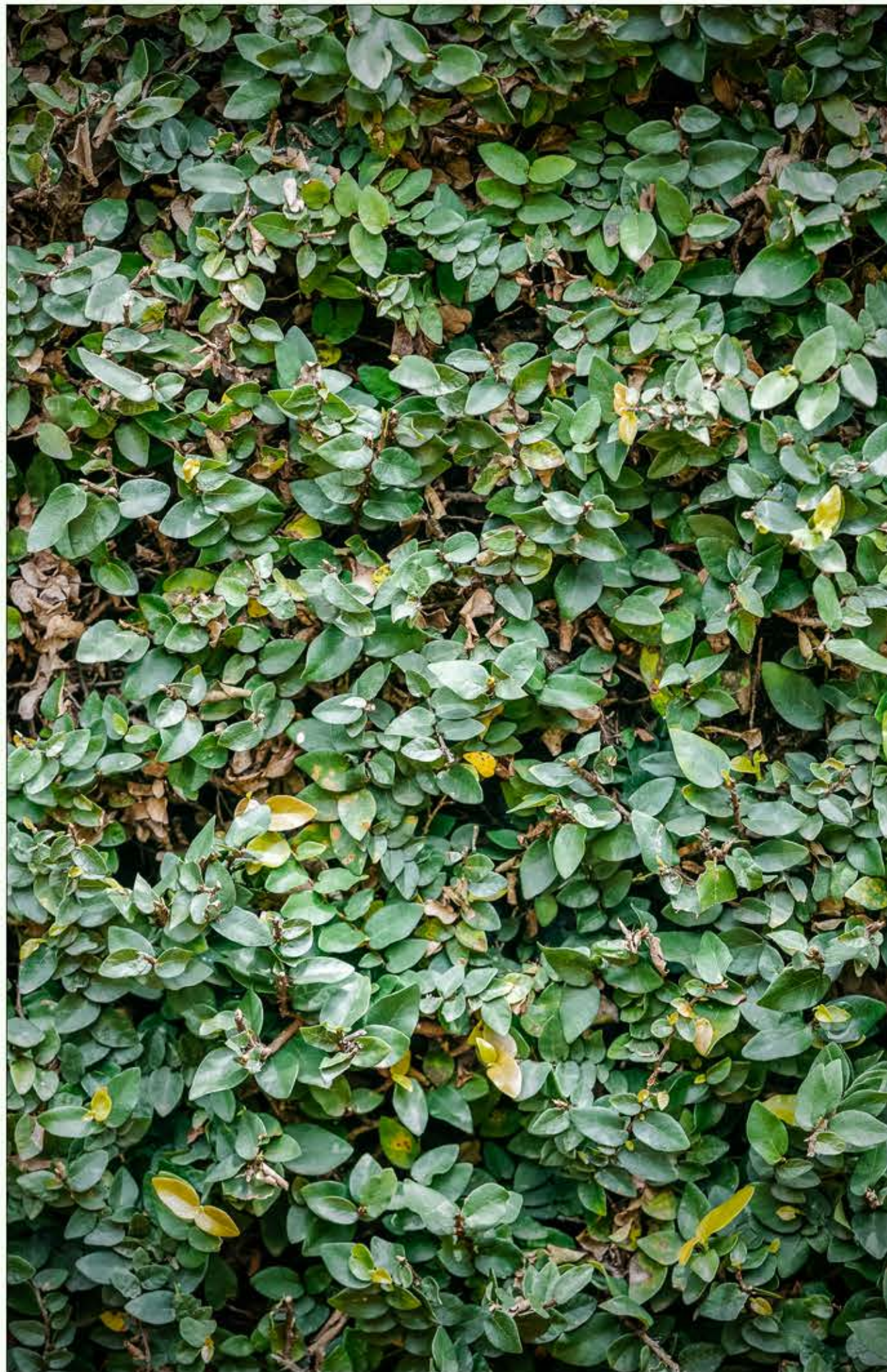
Cholorophytum sps



**Cultivar of Ficus
benjamina**



**Lawn variety of
Cynodon dactylon**

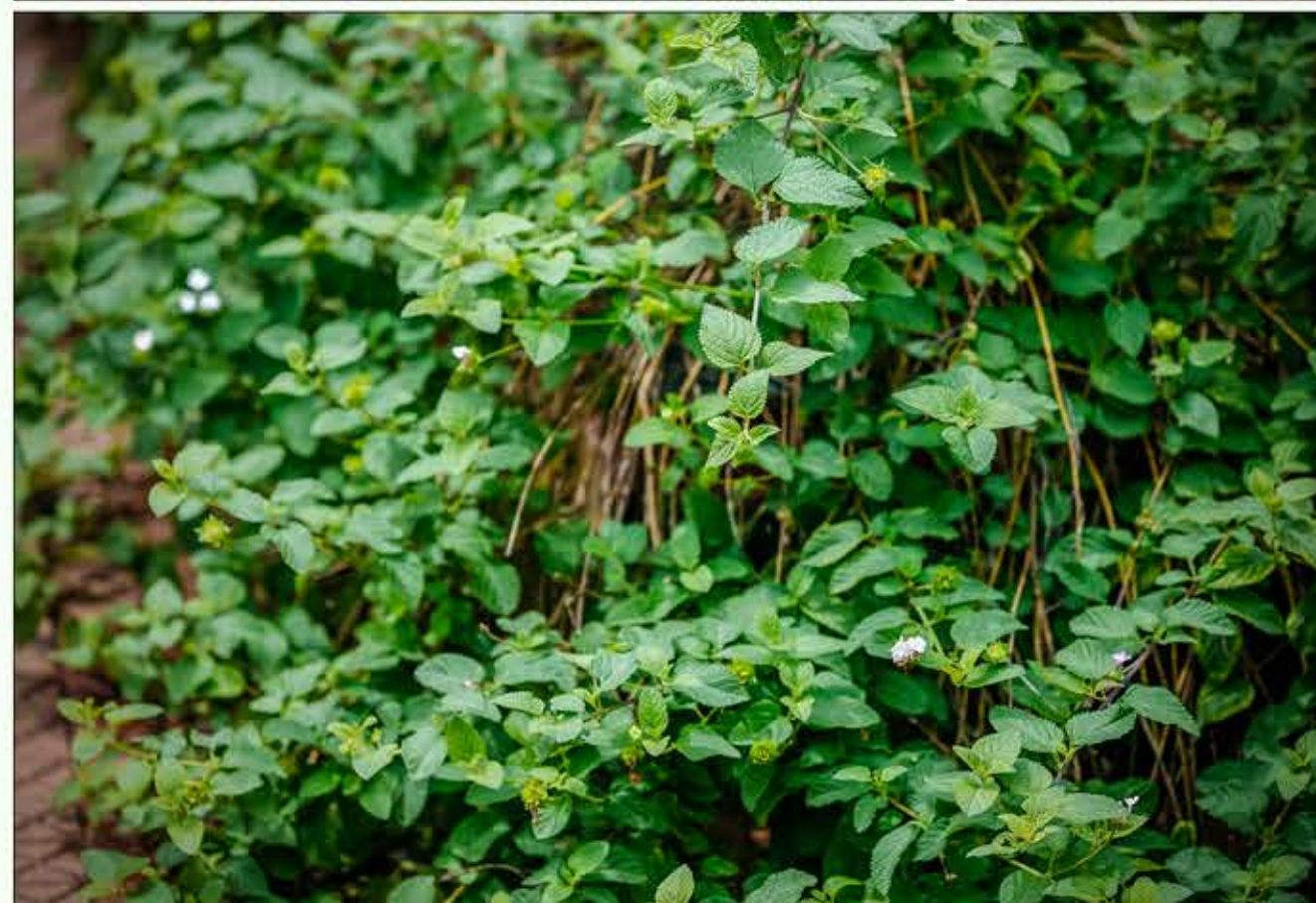


Ficus pumila



Asparagus densiflorus

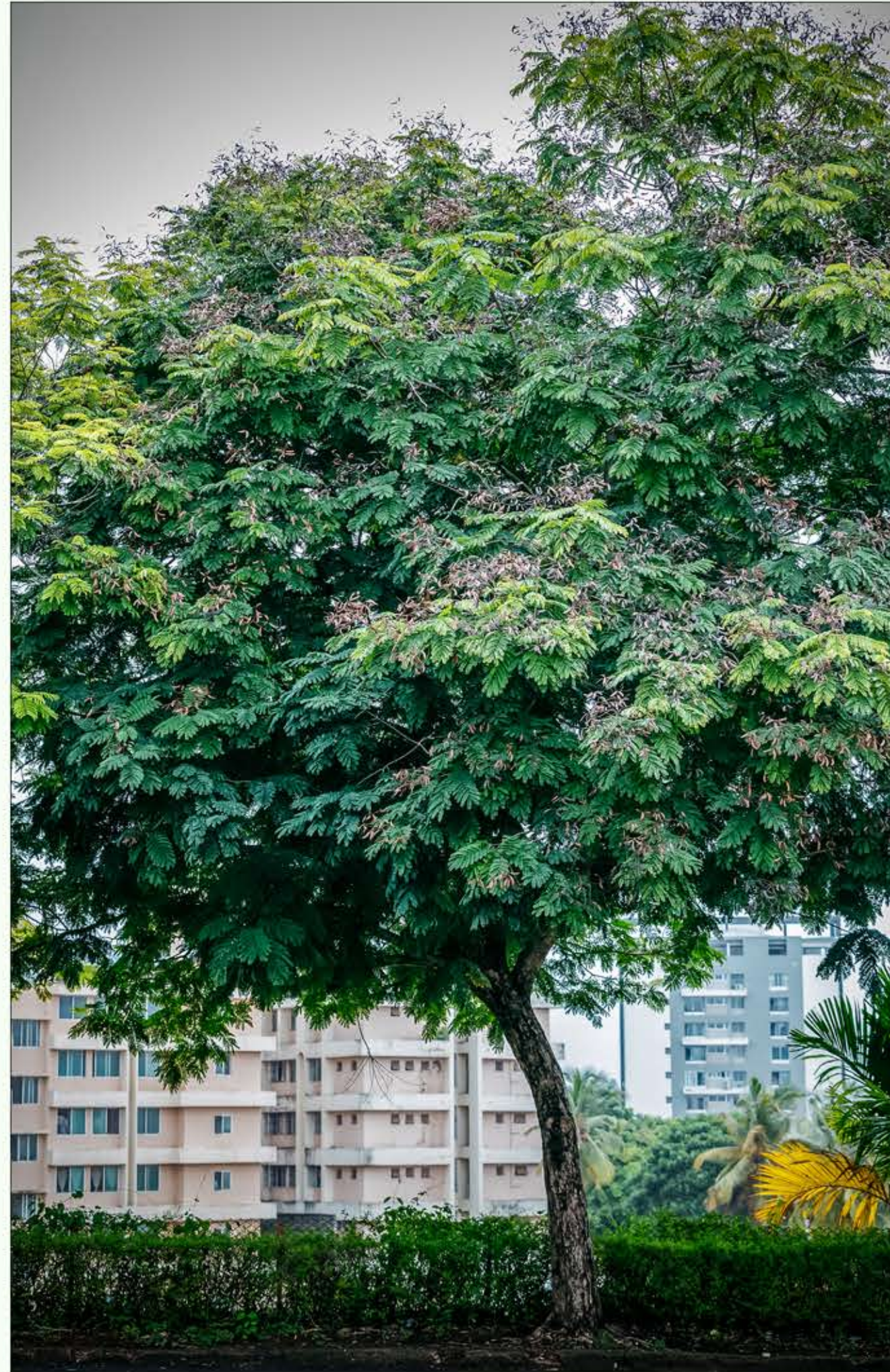




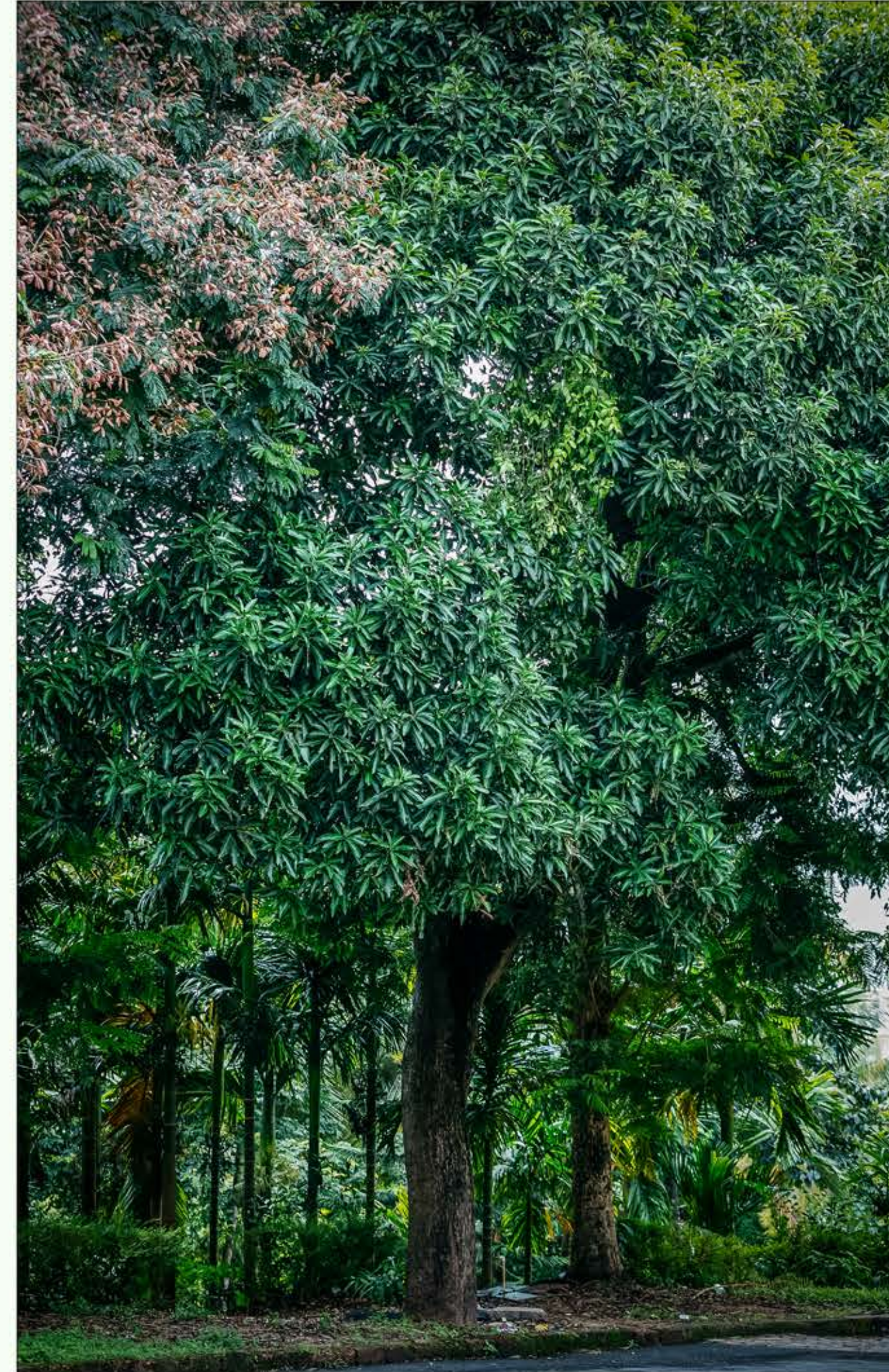
Lantana sps



**Tabernaemontana
divaricata**



**Peltophorum
pterocarpum**



Mangifera indica

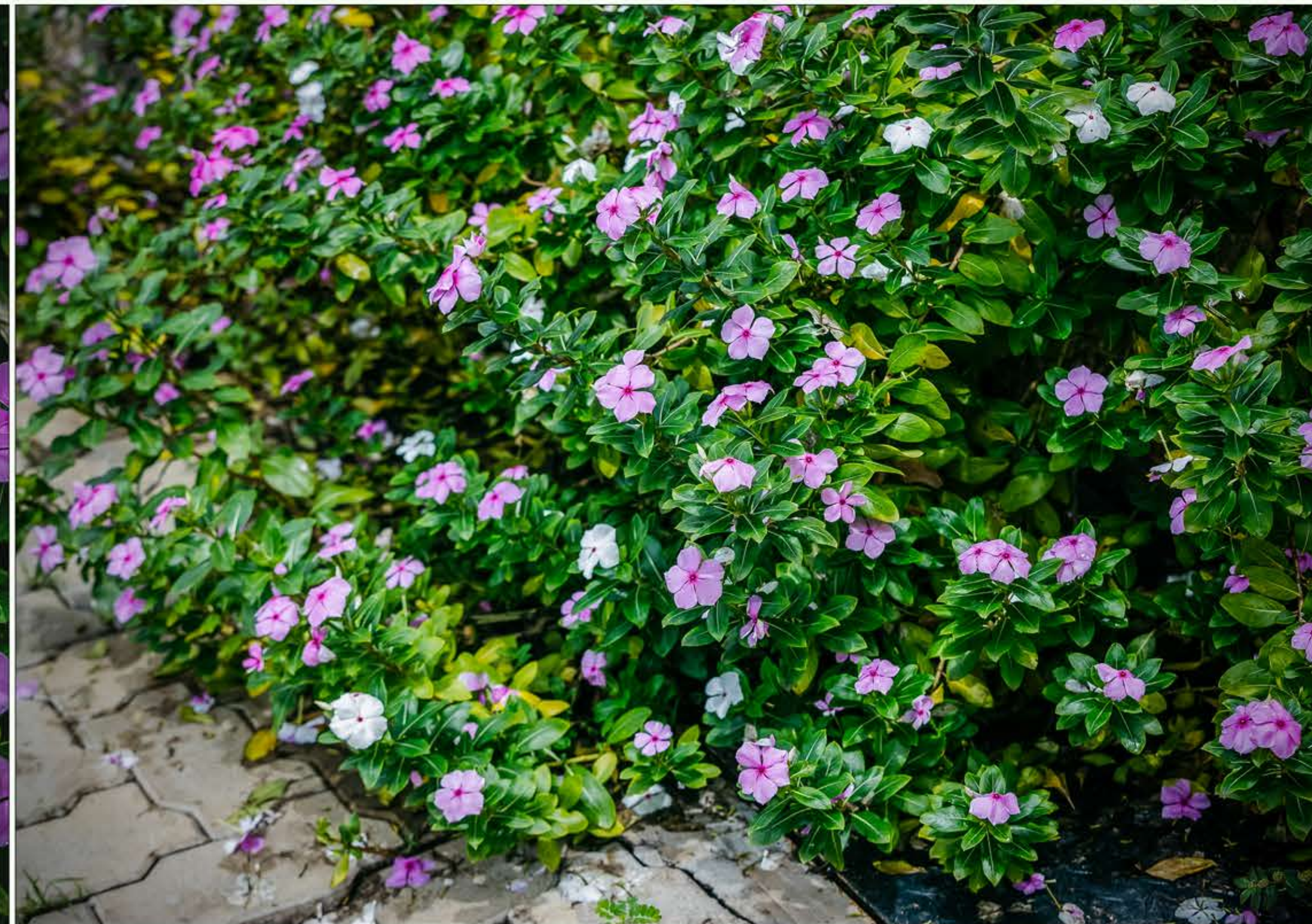
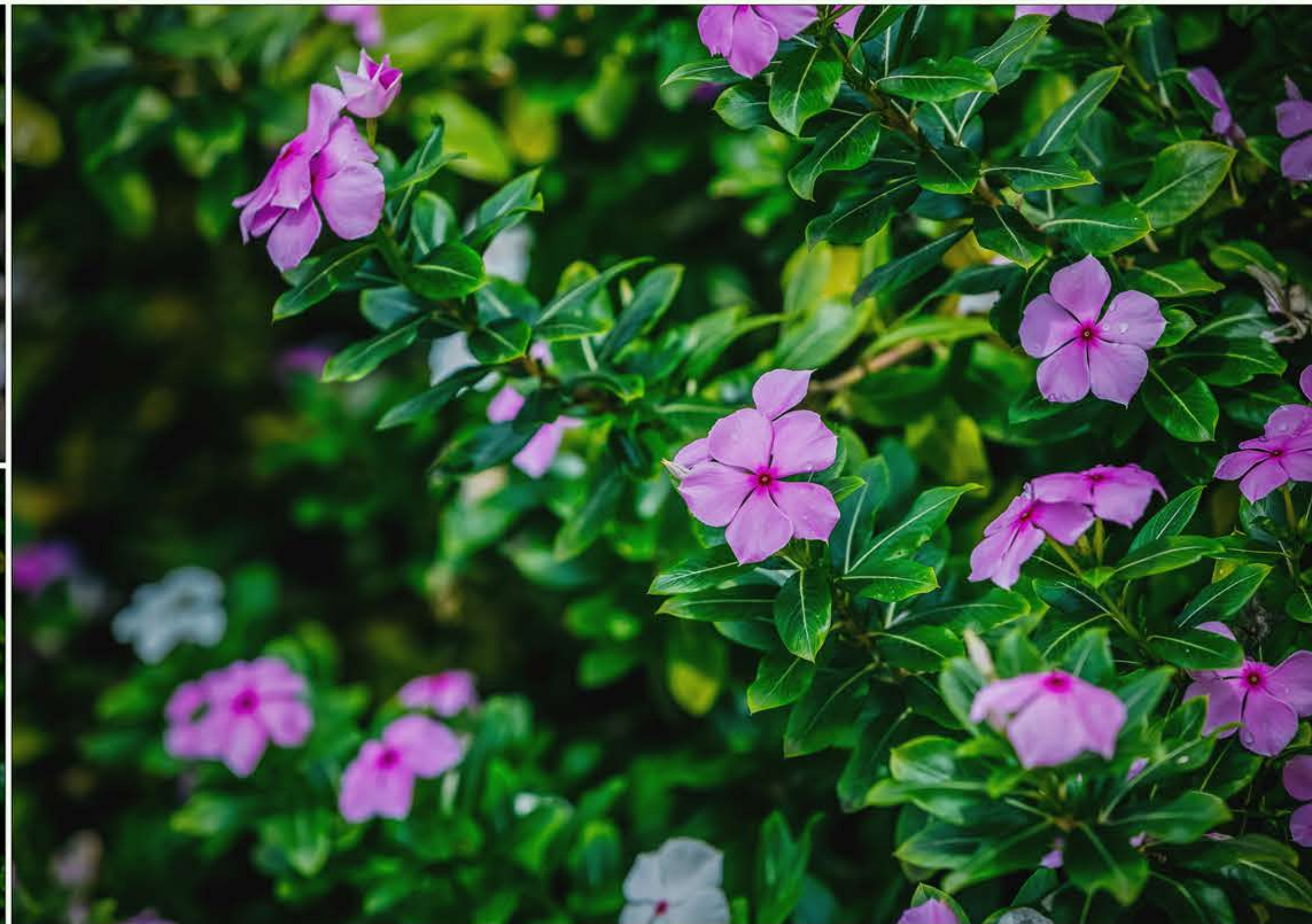
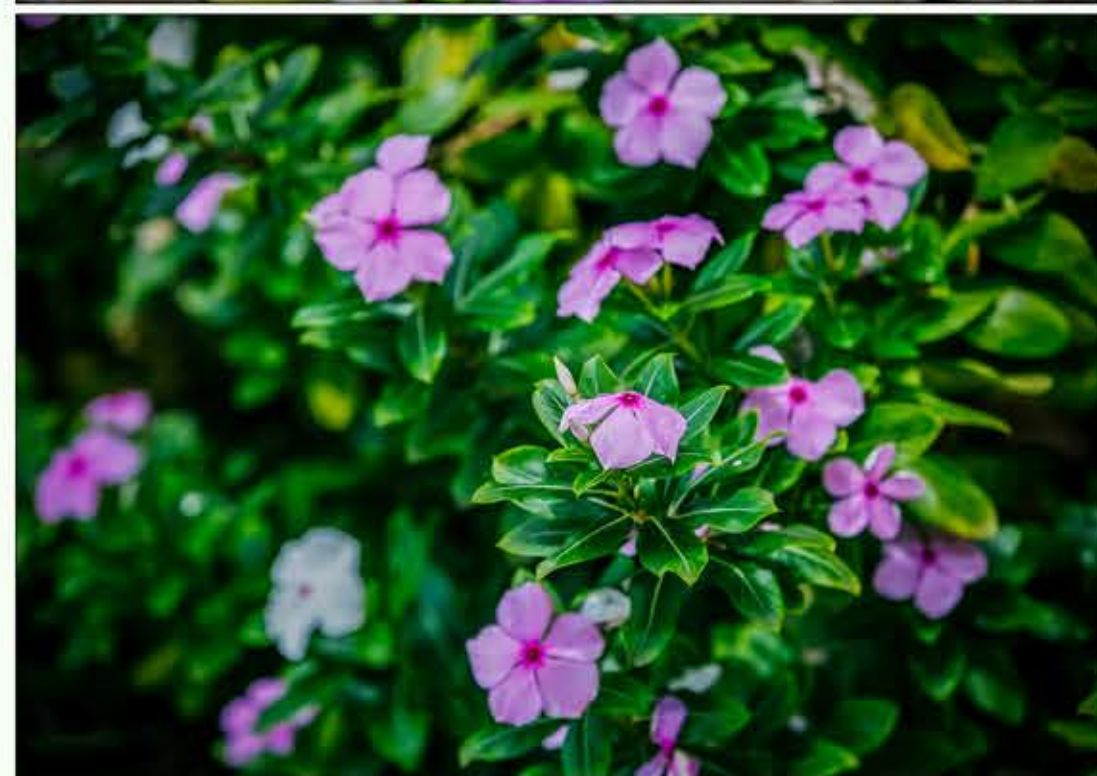




Areca catechu



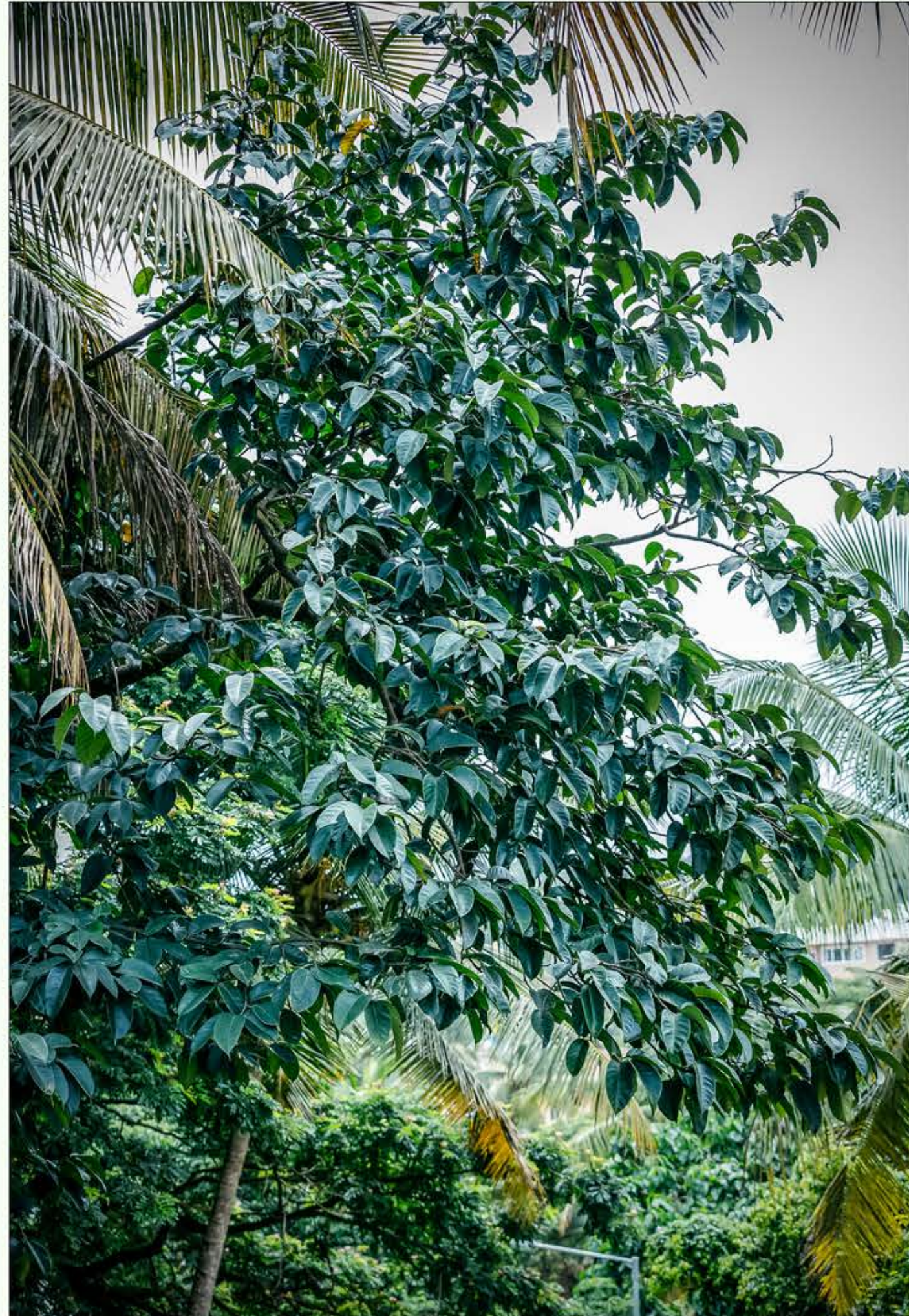
***Duranta erecta*
variety 'Golden'**



Catharanthus roseus



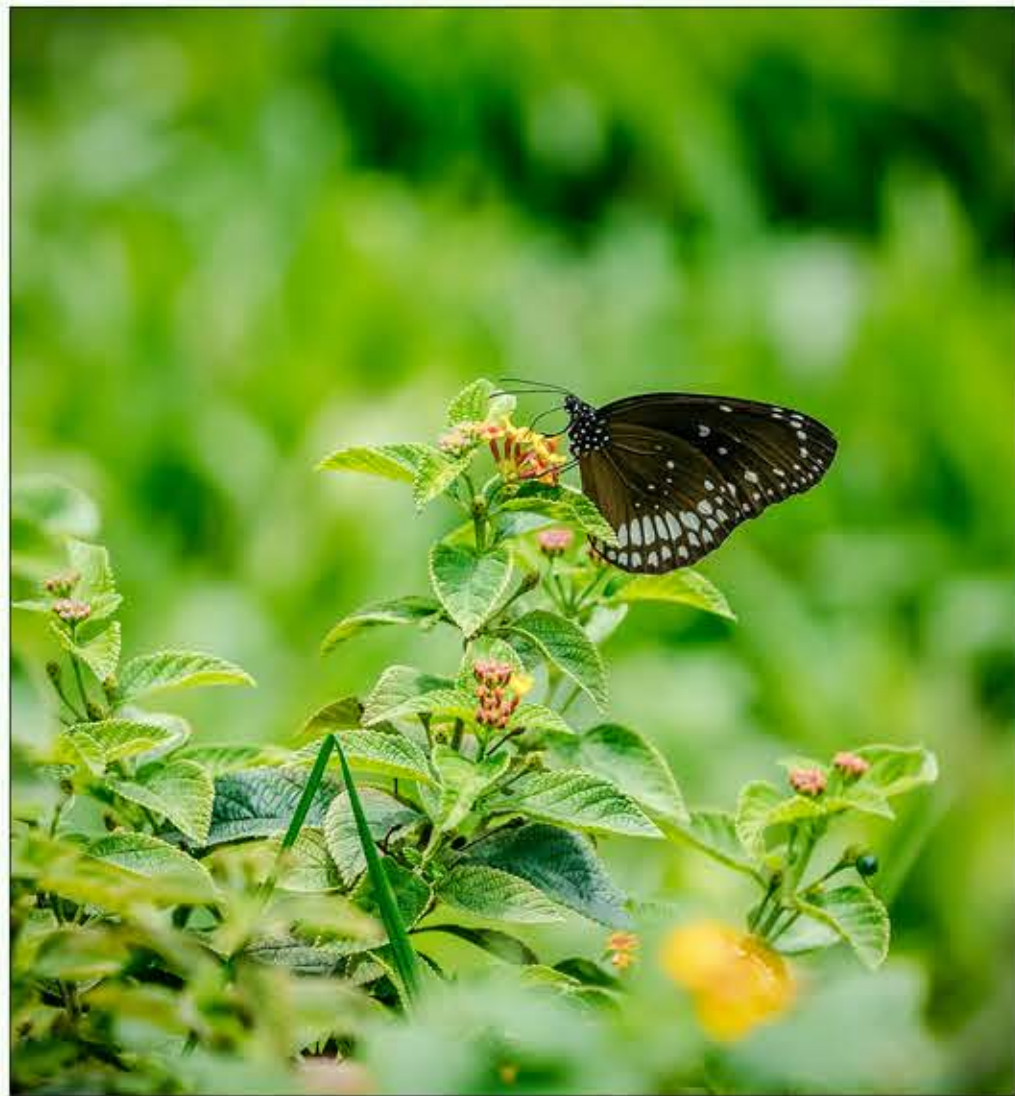
***Ixora* sps**



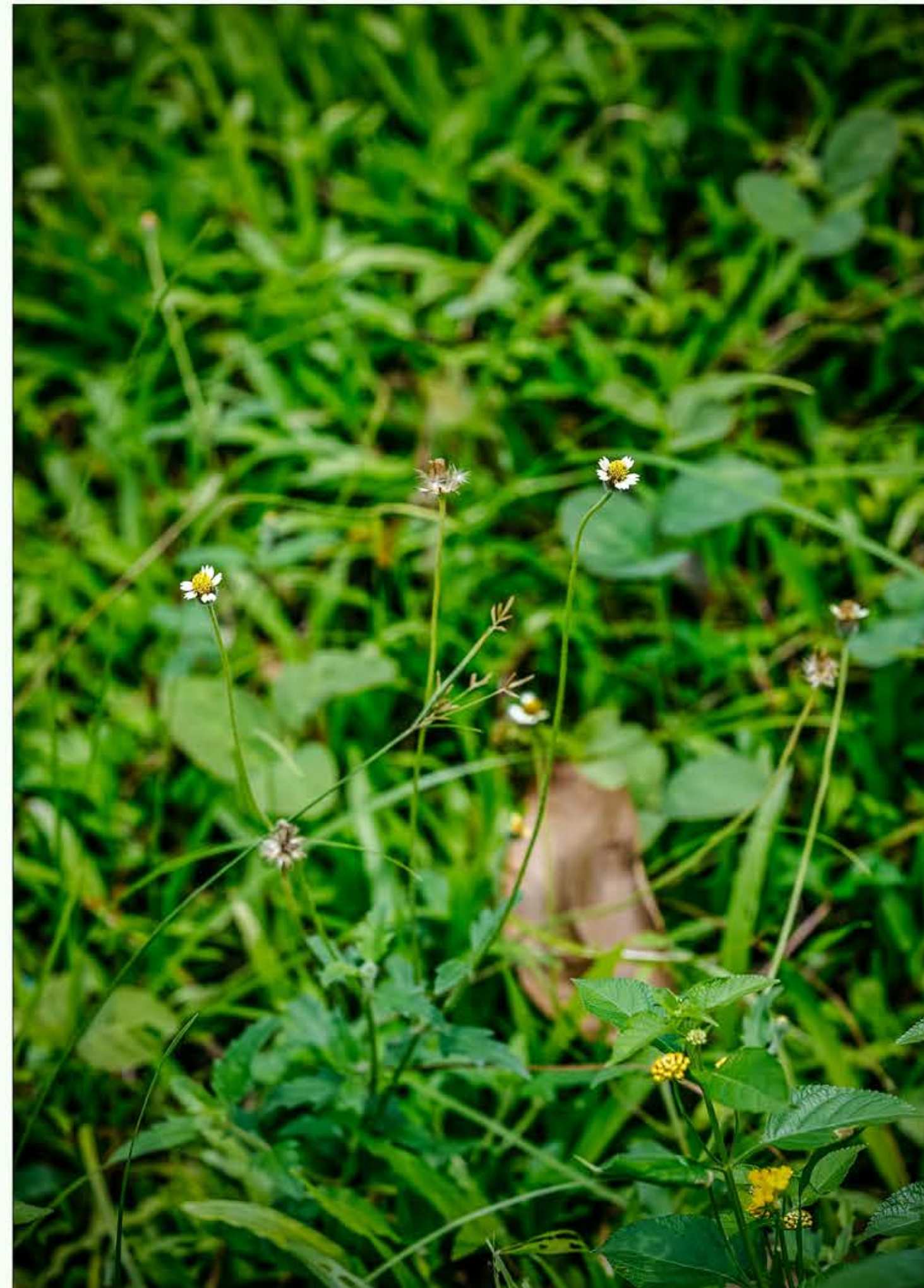
***Artocarpus*
*hirsutus***



Artocarpus heterophyllus



Lantana camara



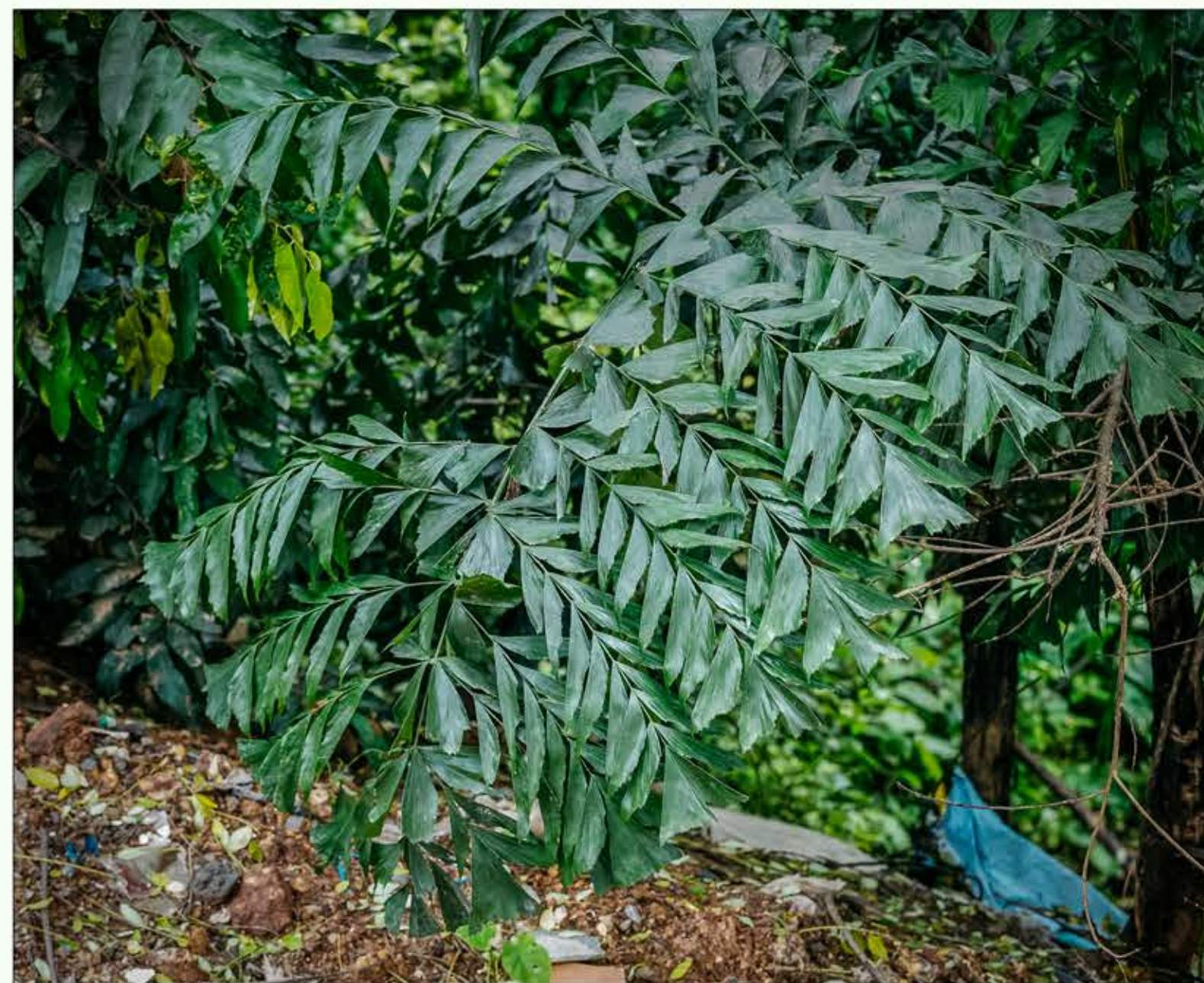
**Tridax
procumbens**

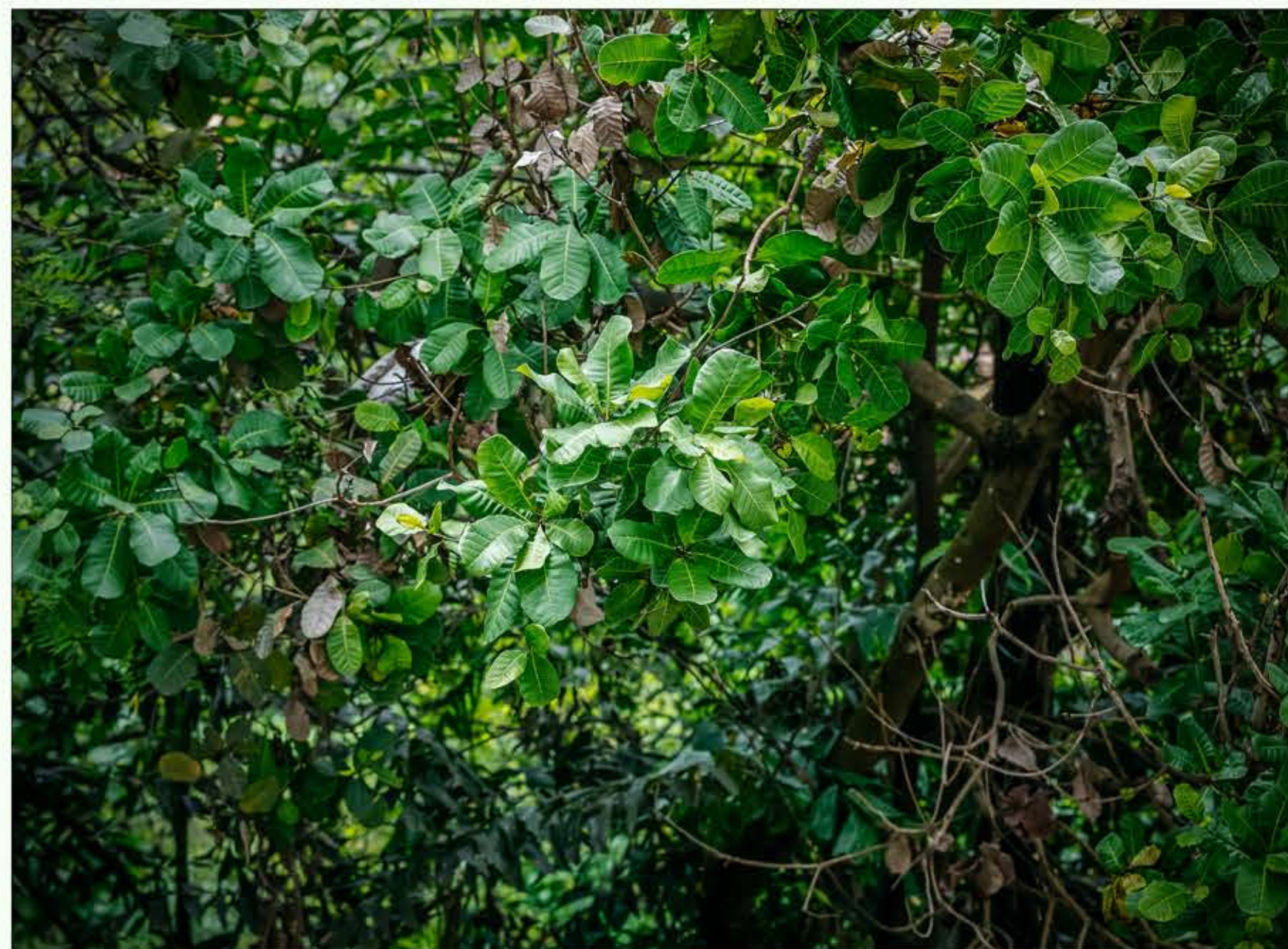


Caesalpinia pulcherrima

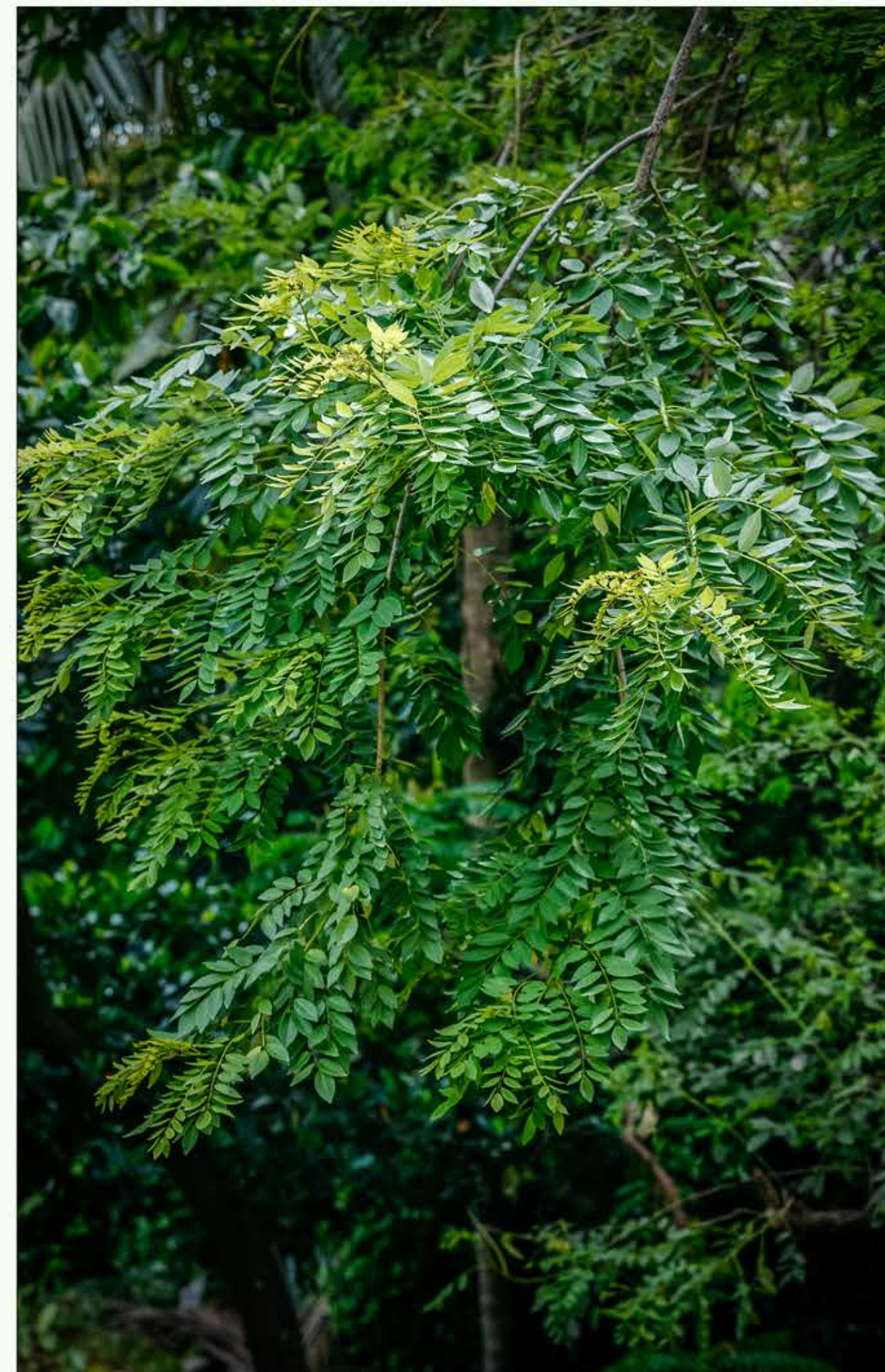


Caryota urens





Anacardium occidentale



Gliricidia sepium



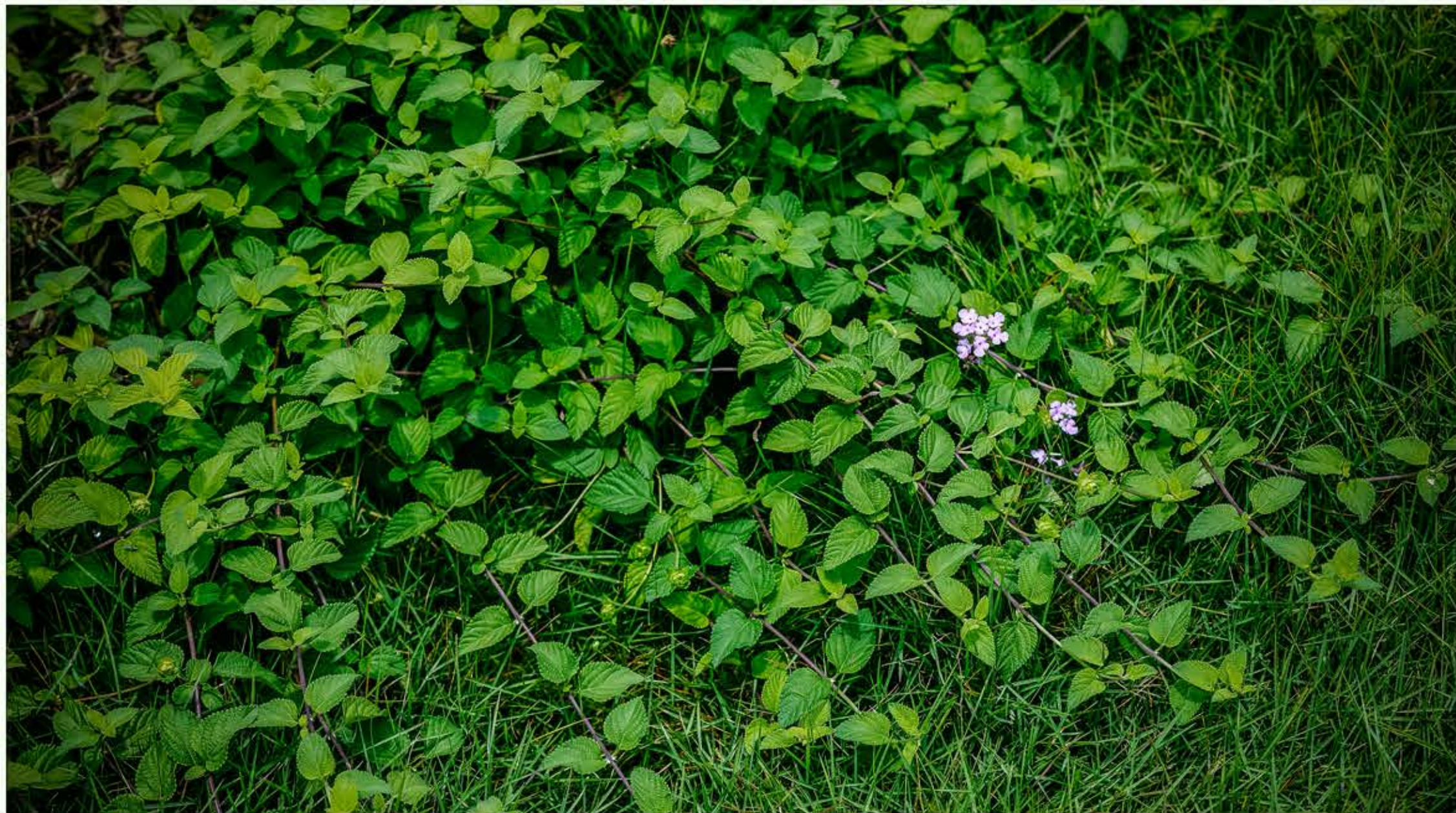


**Pennisetum
setaceum**



**Tradescantia
spathacea**





**Lantana
montevidensis**



**Alternanthera
bettzickiana**





Plumeria rubra



Ixora coccinea





**Euphorbia
millii variety**



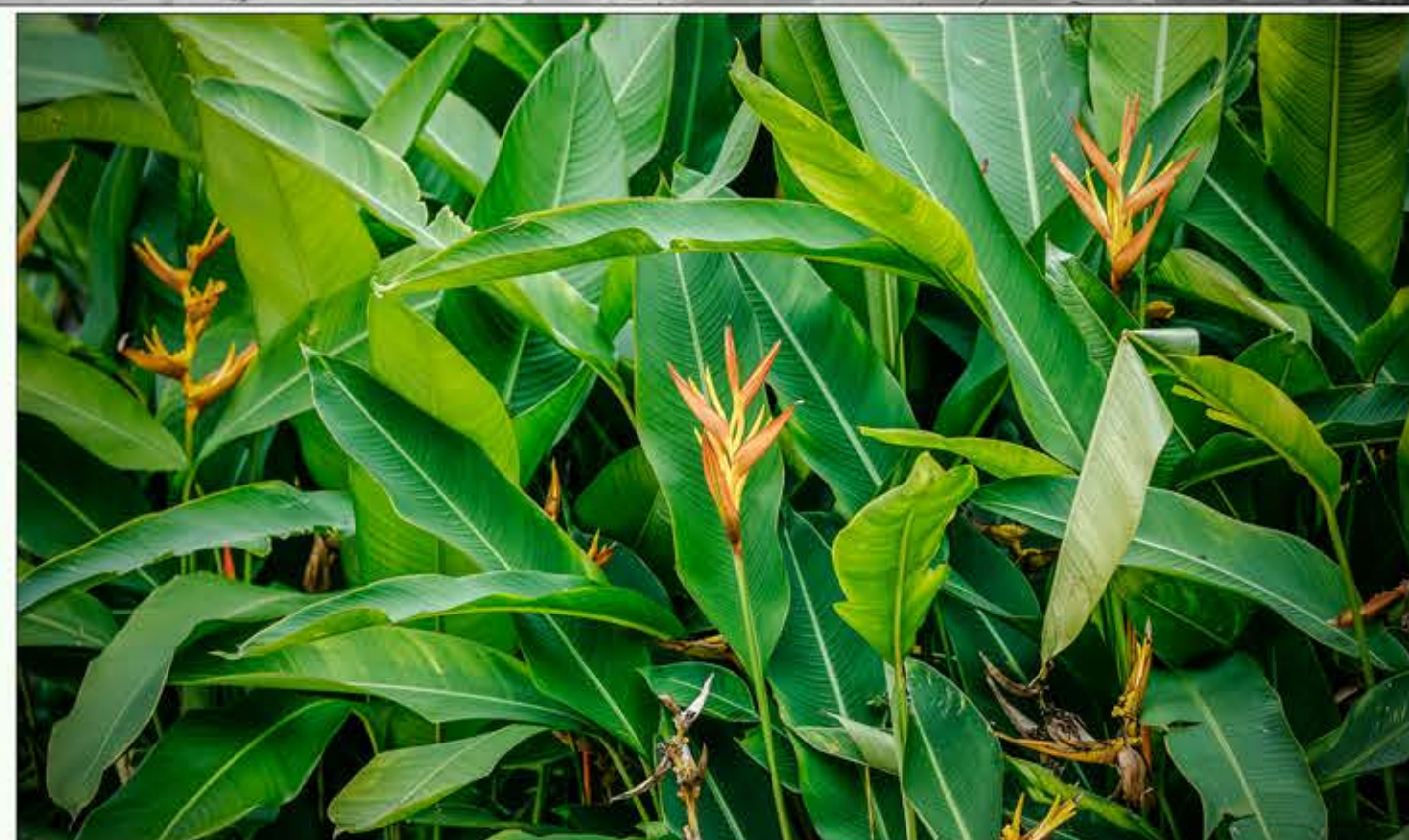
**Ficus benjamina
variegated**



Cocos nucifera



Coleus sps



Heliconia sps



**Hymenocallis
littoralis**



**Acalypha
wilkesiana**



**Acalypha wilkesiana -
copperleaf variety**





Chlorophytum sps



Allamanda





**Dieffenbachia
amoena**



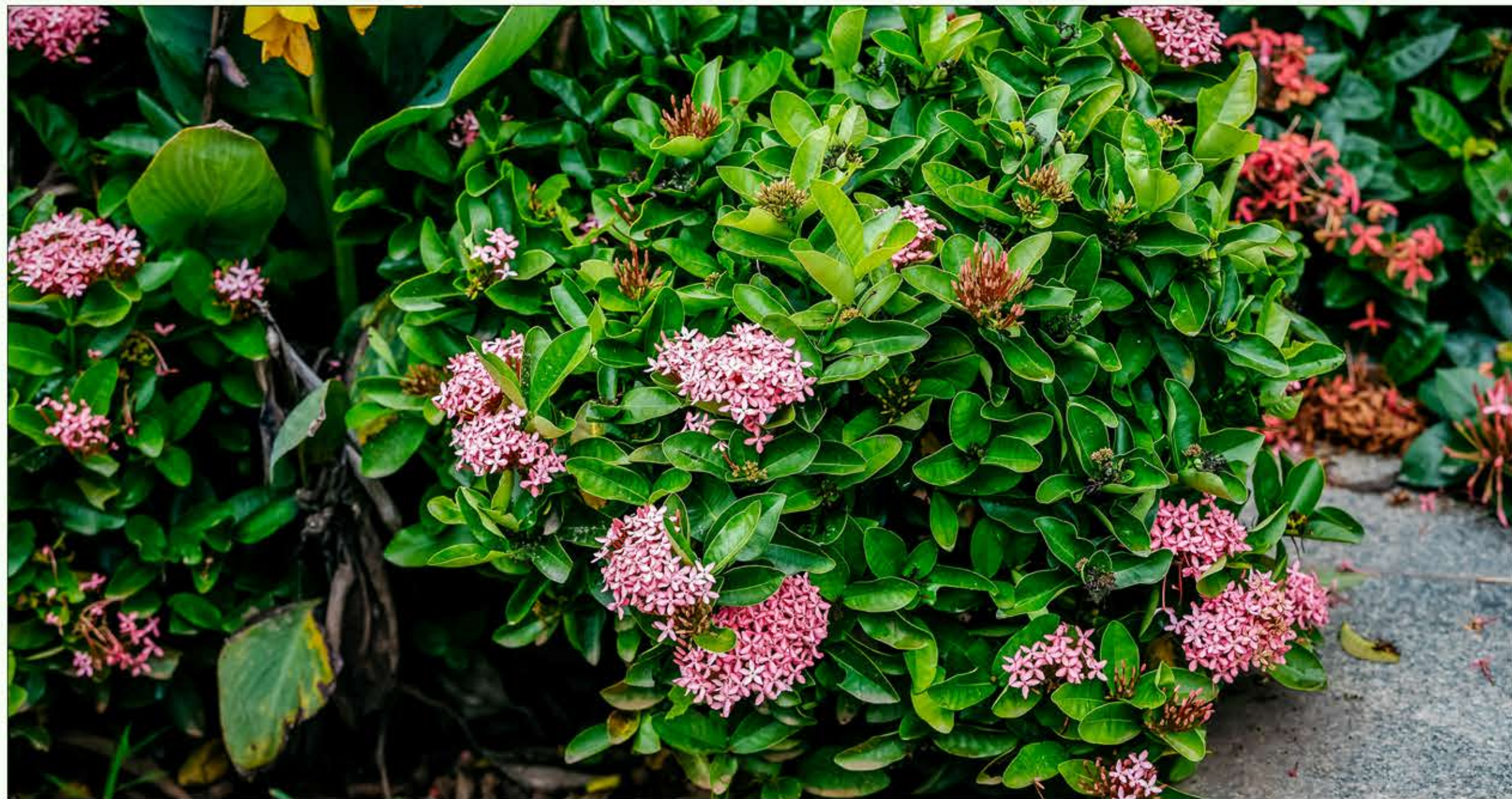
Aglaonema



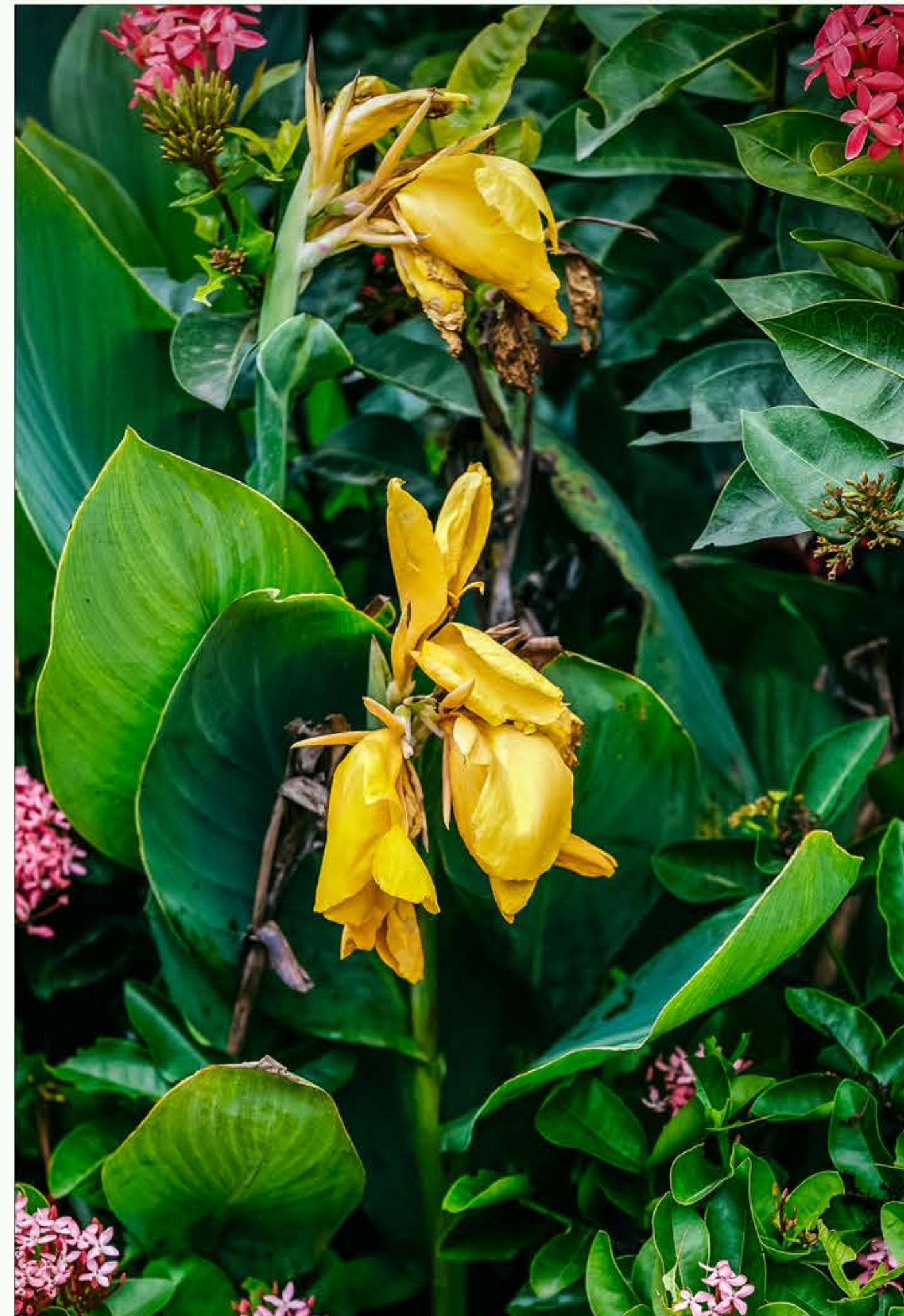
**Hibiscus rosa
sinensis**



**Ficus benjamina
variegated**



***Ixora* sps**



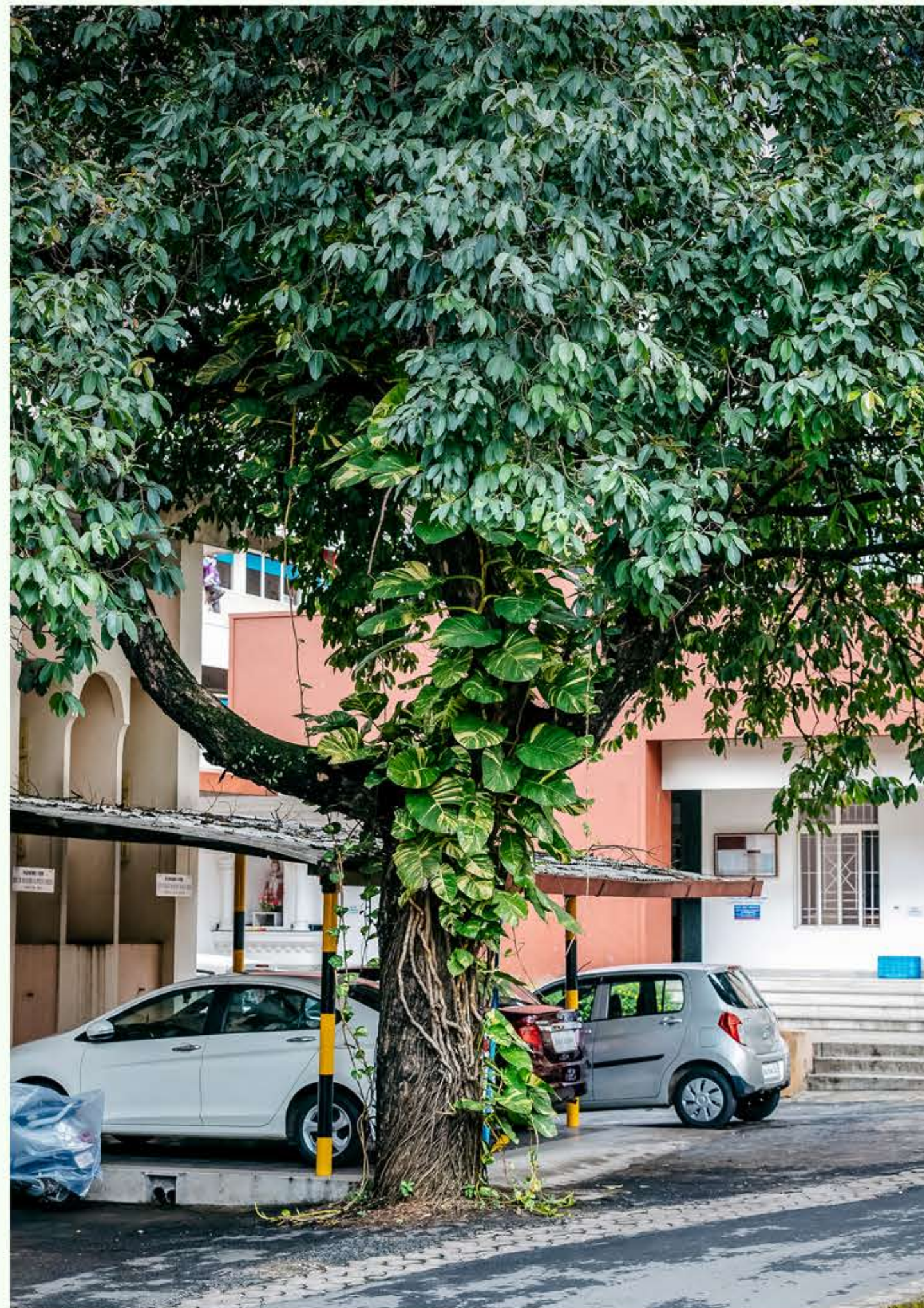
***Canna* sps**



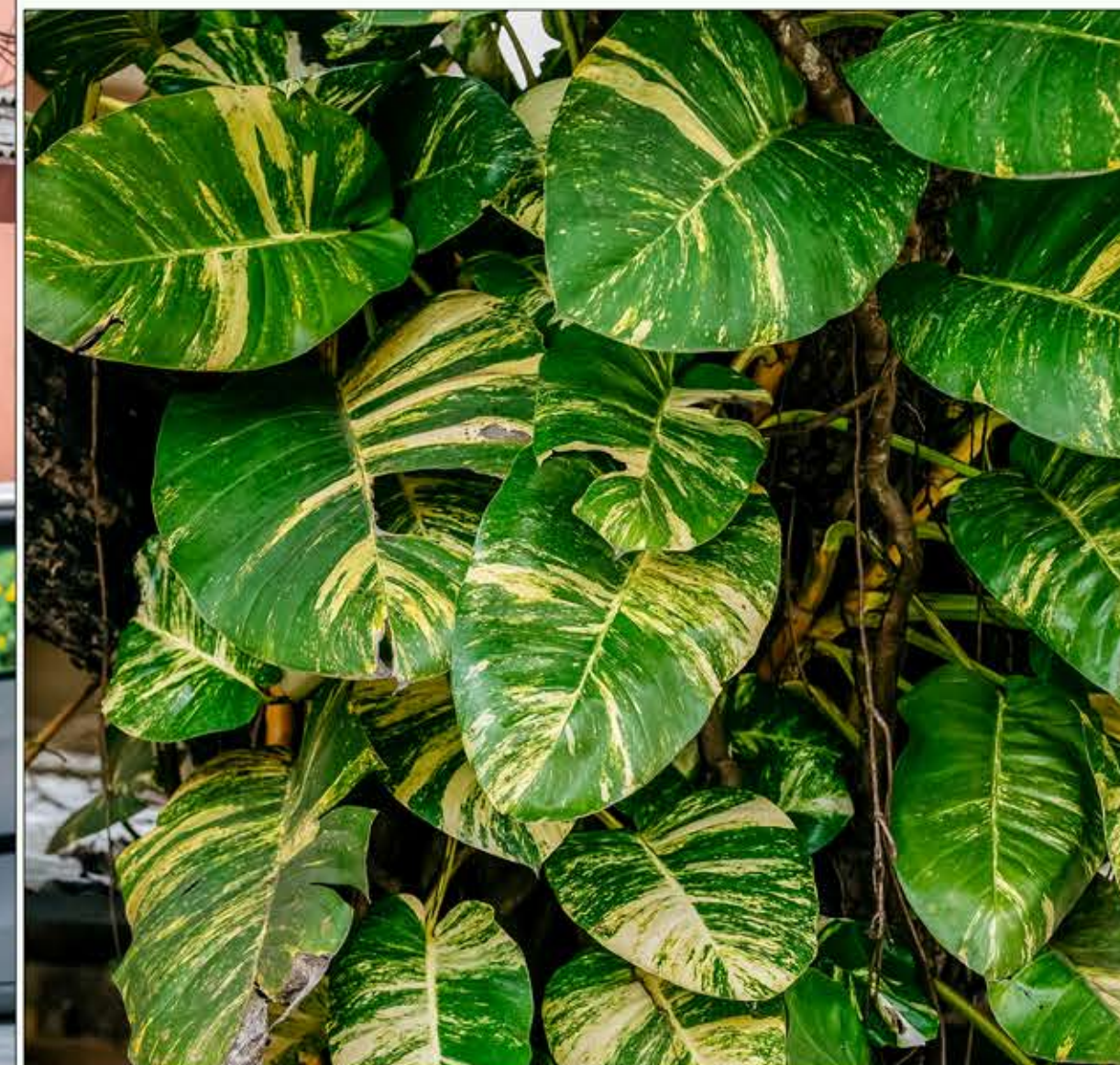
Plumeria alba



Agave sps

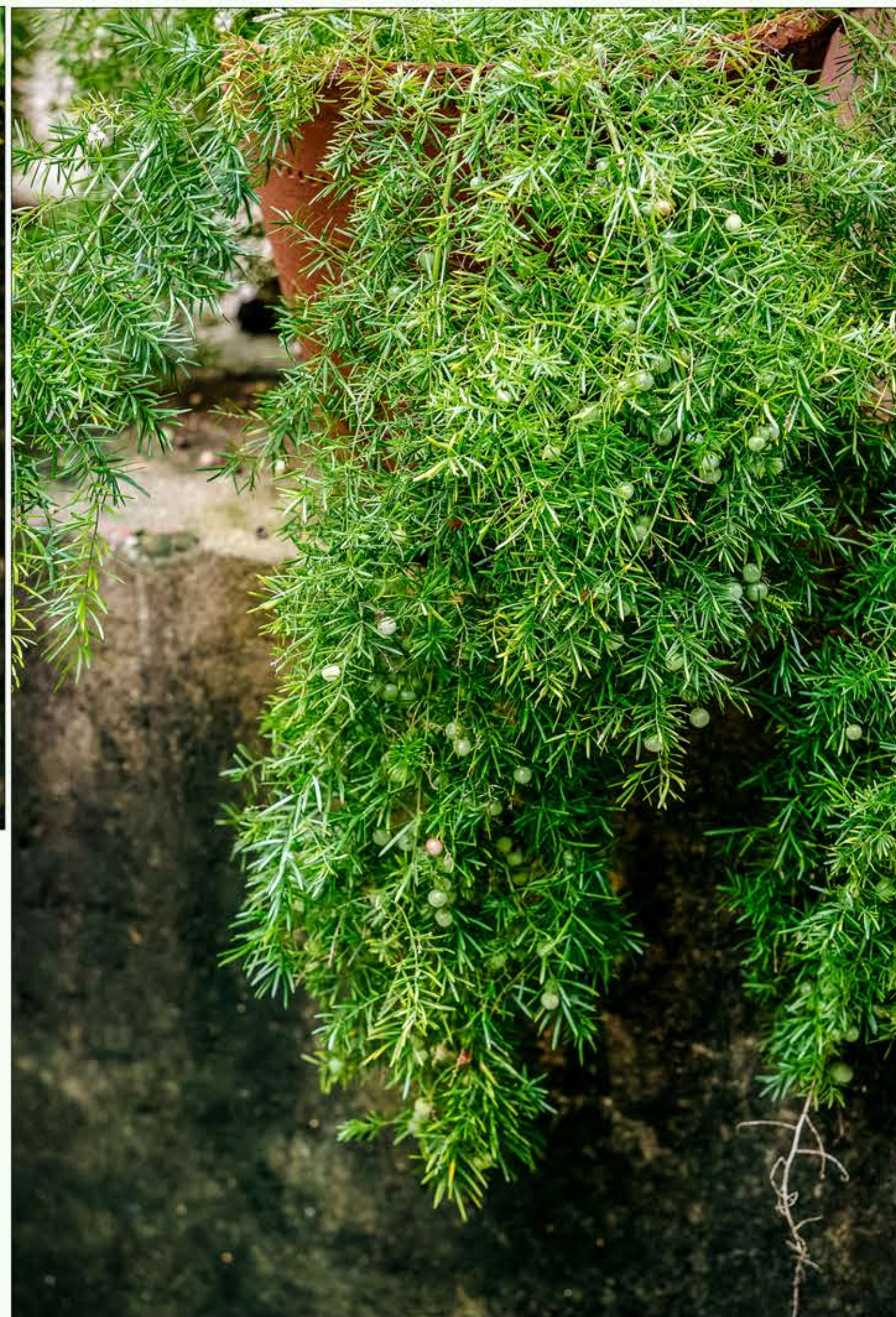


Syzygium cumini



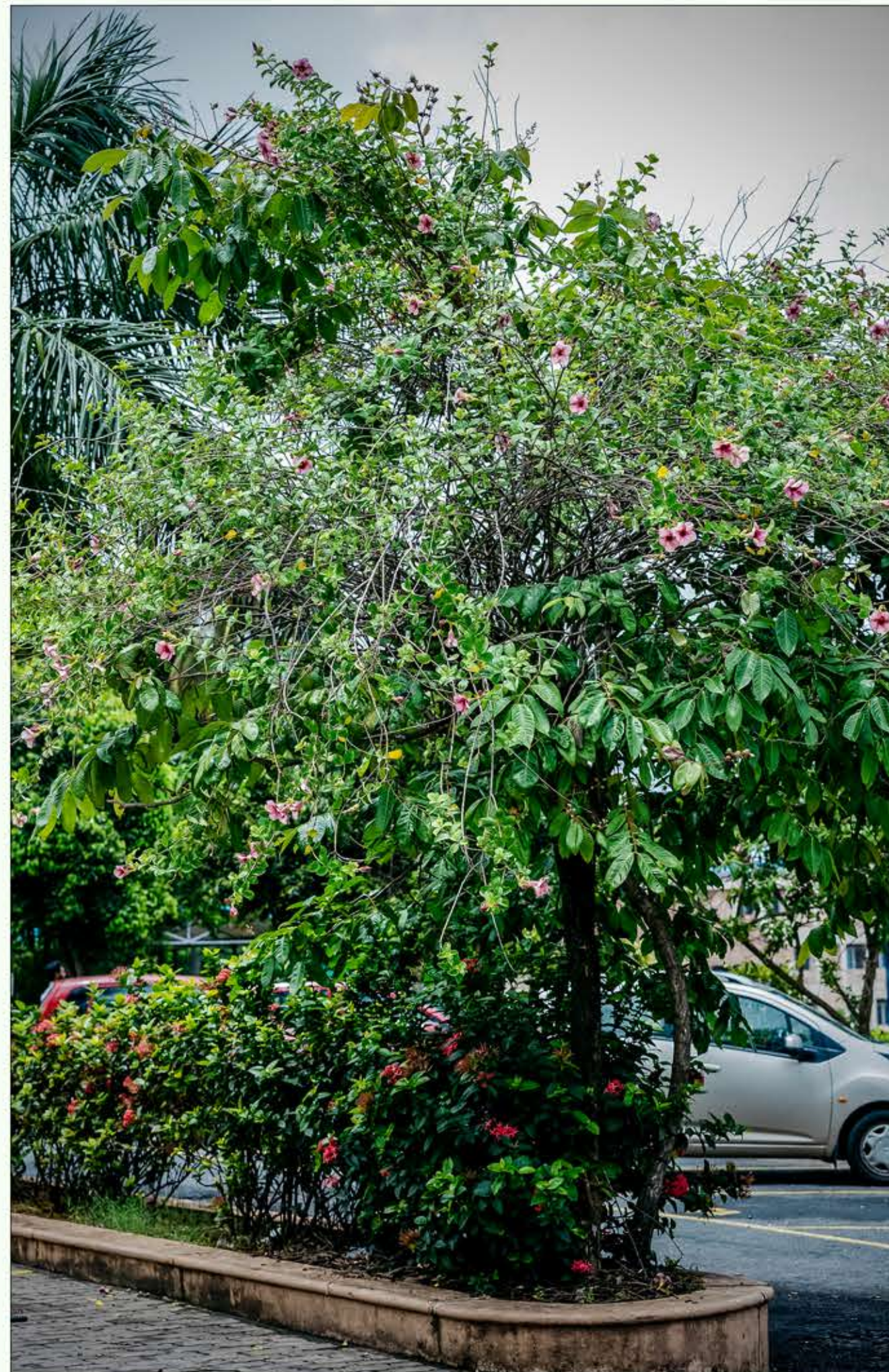


**Asparagus
densiflorus**



**Polyalthia
longifolia**





Allamanda sps



Pseuderanthemum sps



Variegated Croton



Chrysalidocarpus lutescens



Colocasia esculenta



Muntingia calabura

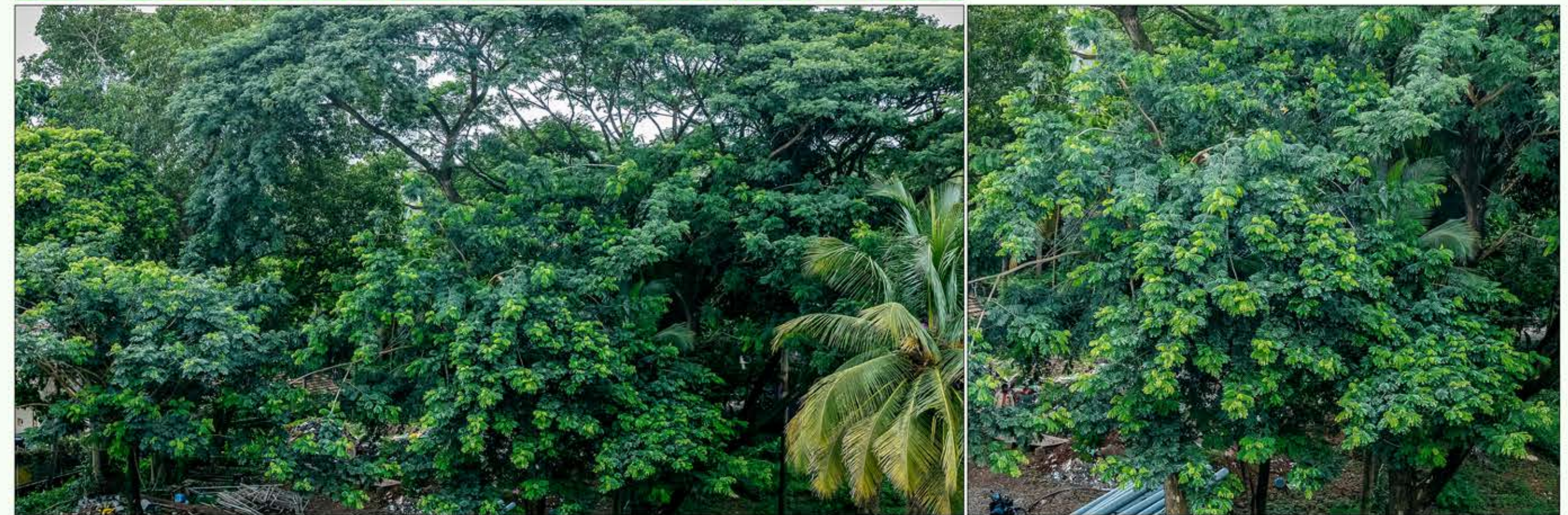




Borassus flabellifer



**Zephyranthes
candida**



Albizia saman



Mimusops elengi



**Lagerstroemia
speciosa**



Basella alba

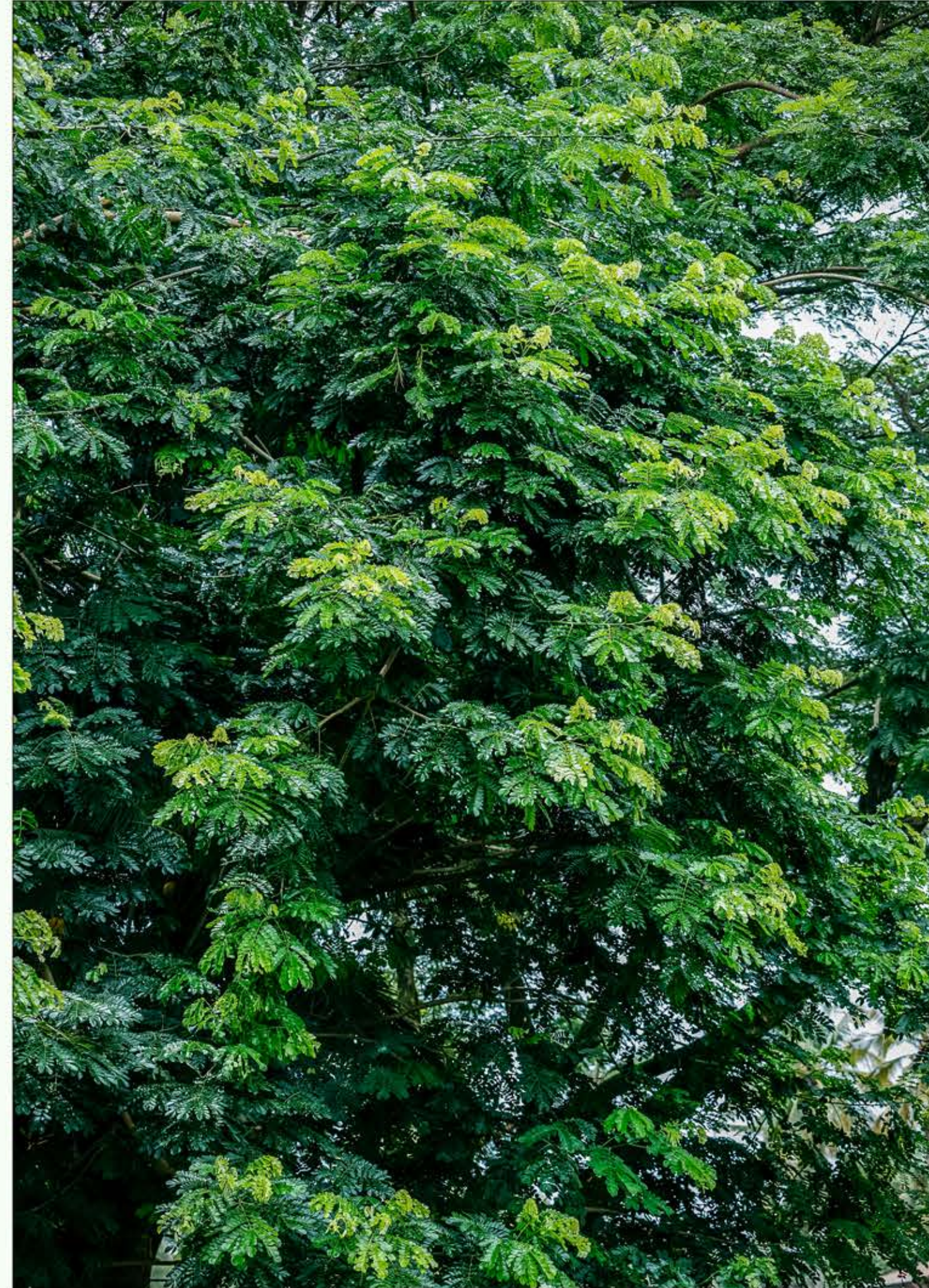


**Stenotaphrum
dimidiatum**





Impatiens sps

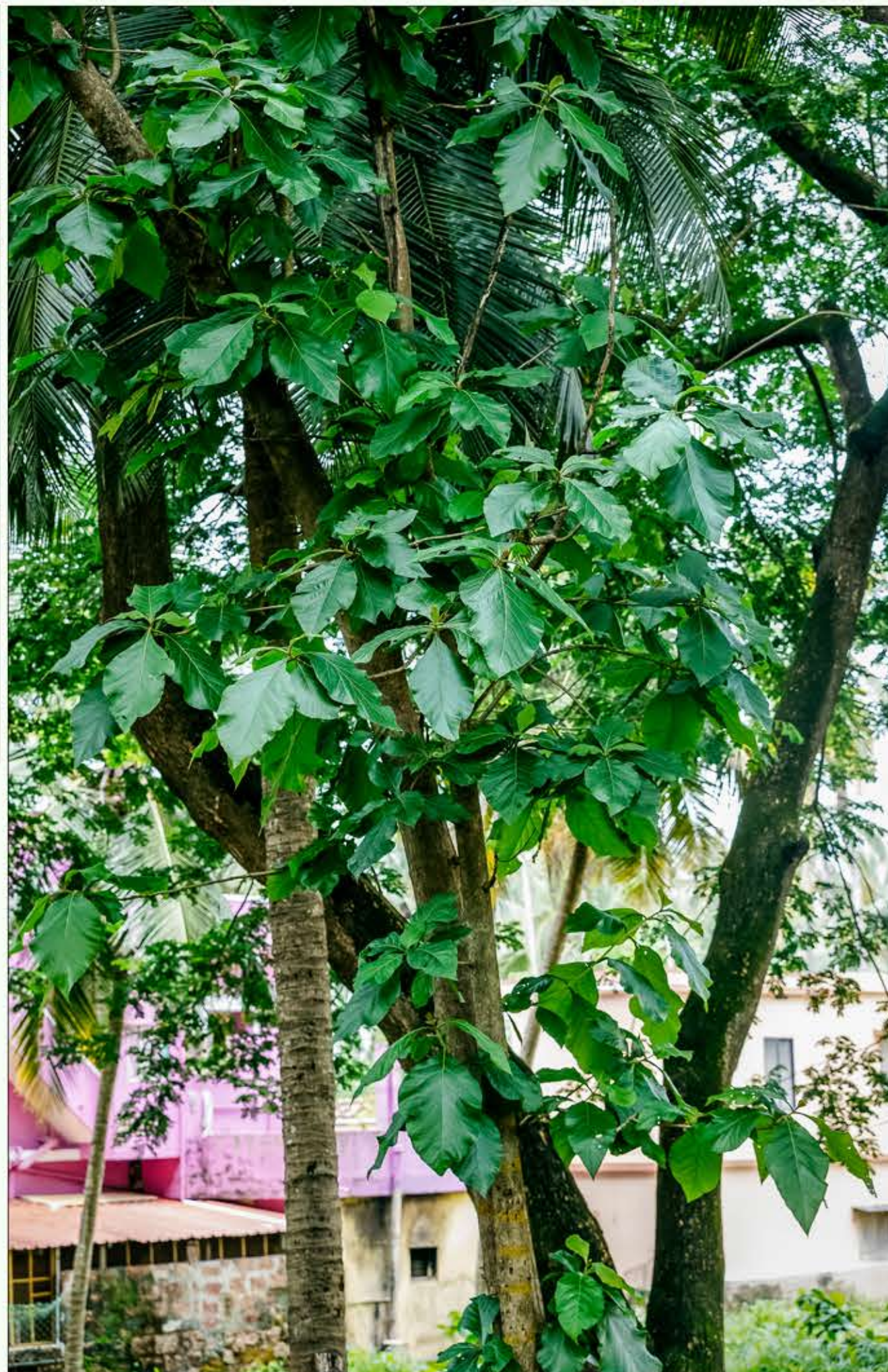


Albizia saman





Tectona grandis



Averrhoa bilimbi

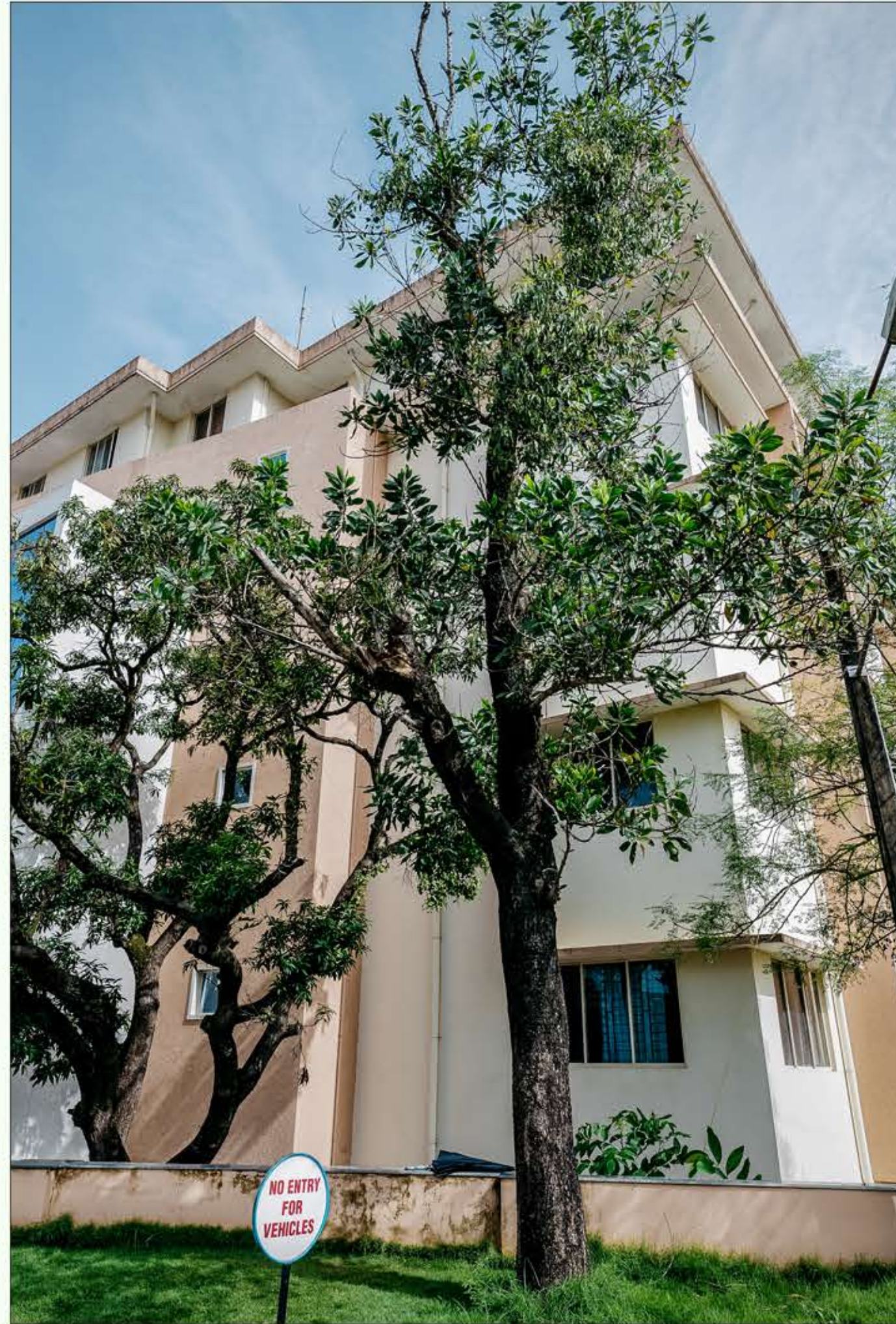


Pongamia pinnata



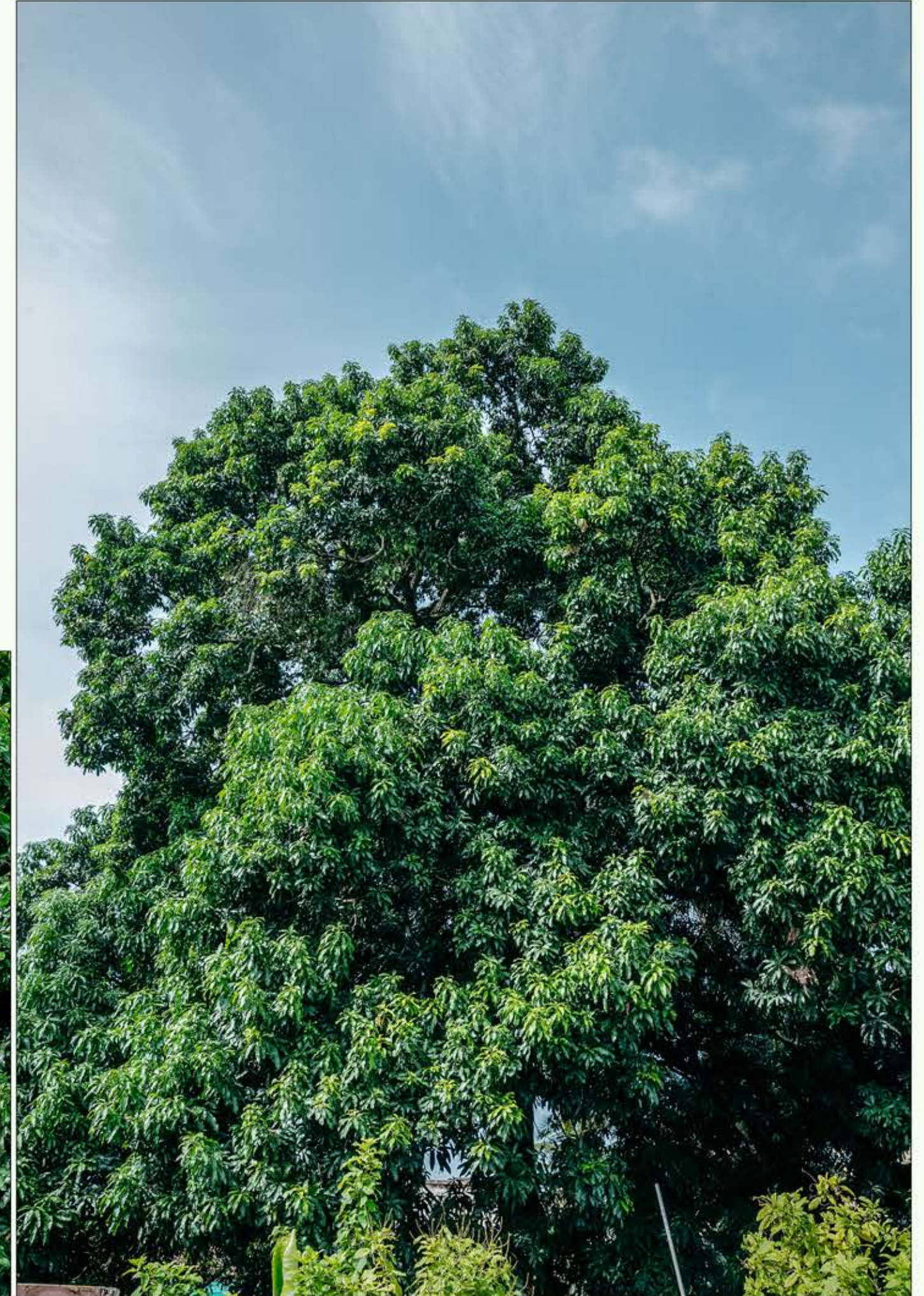
Araucaria columnaris

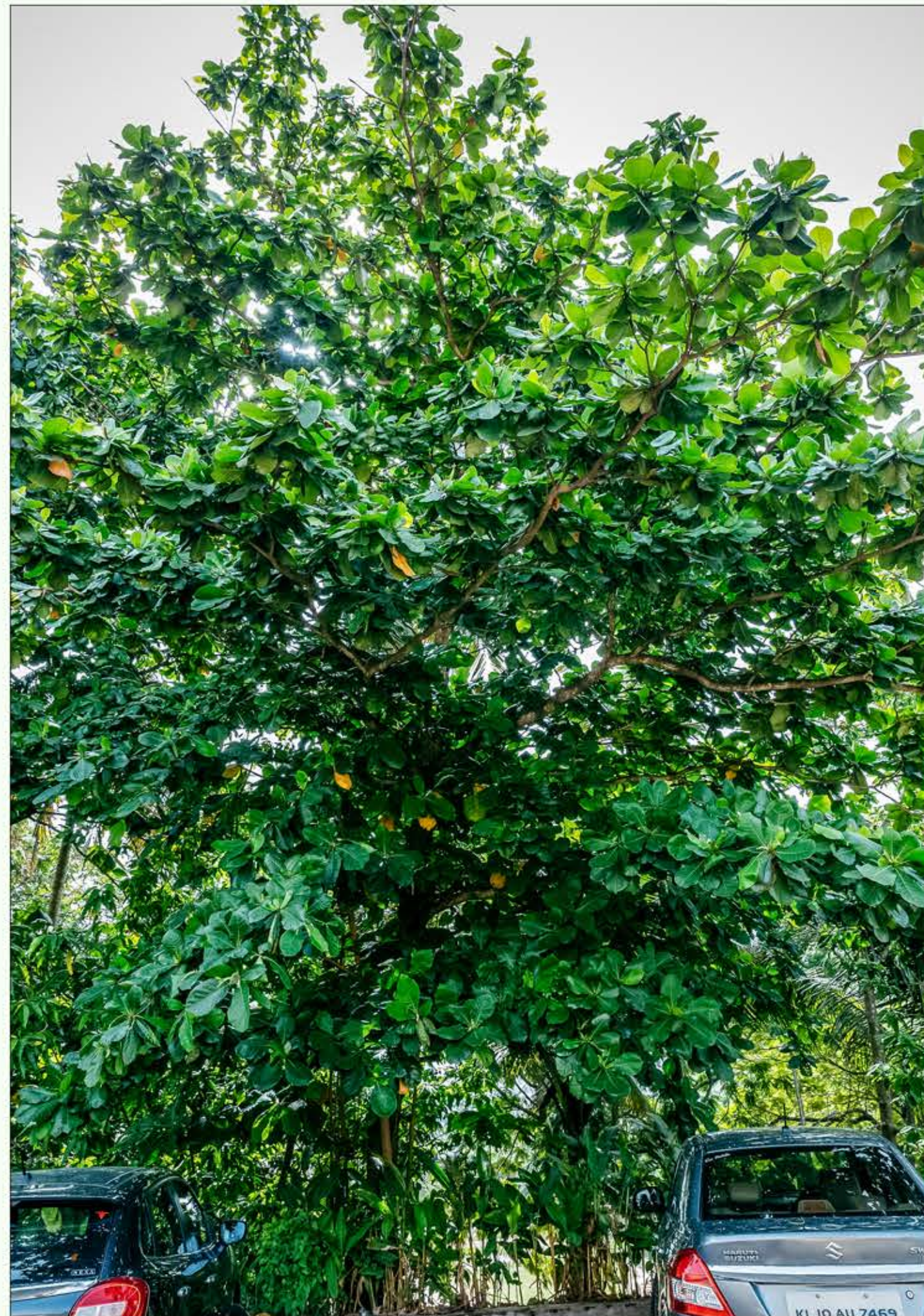




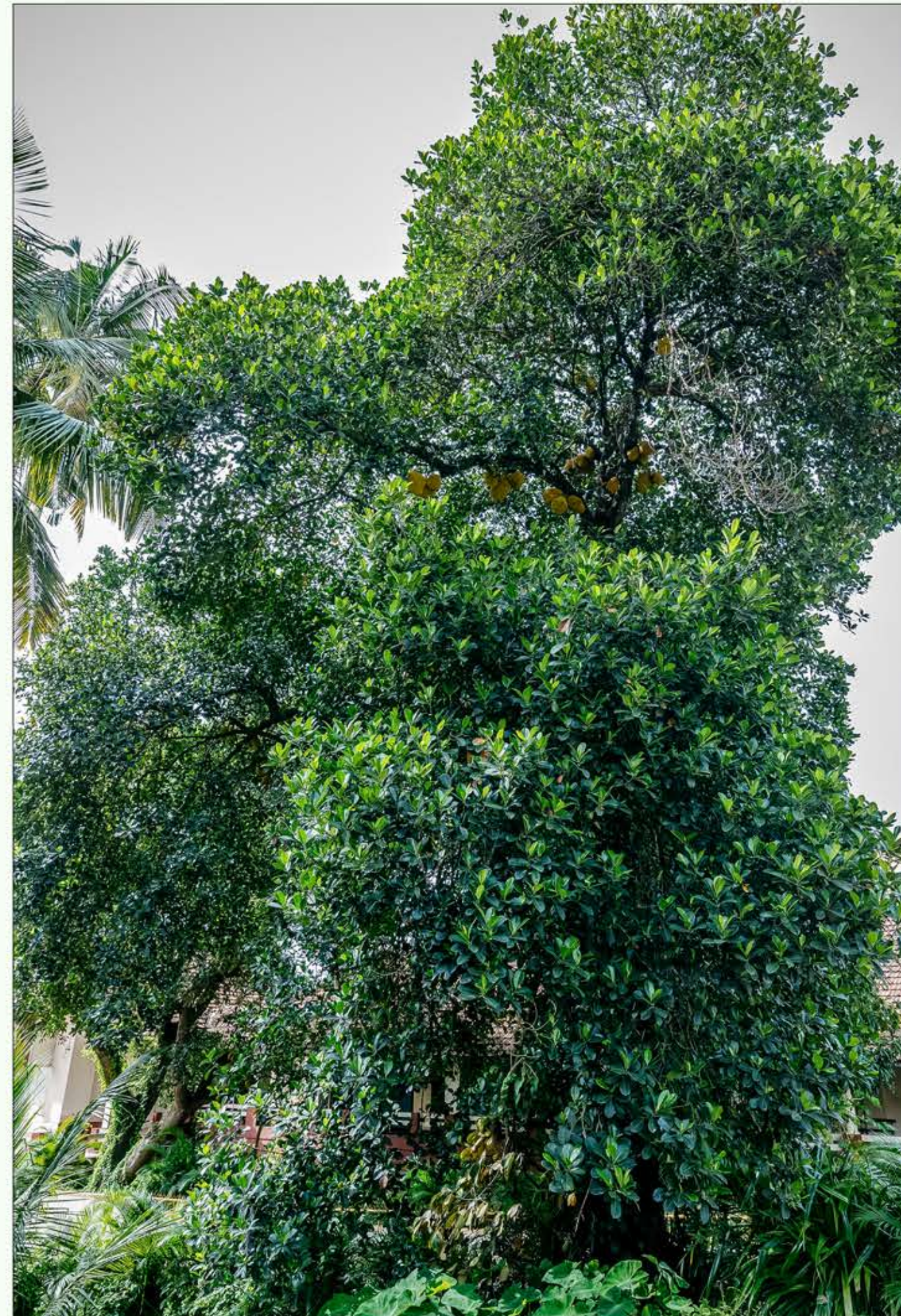
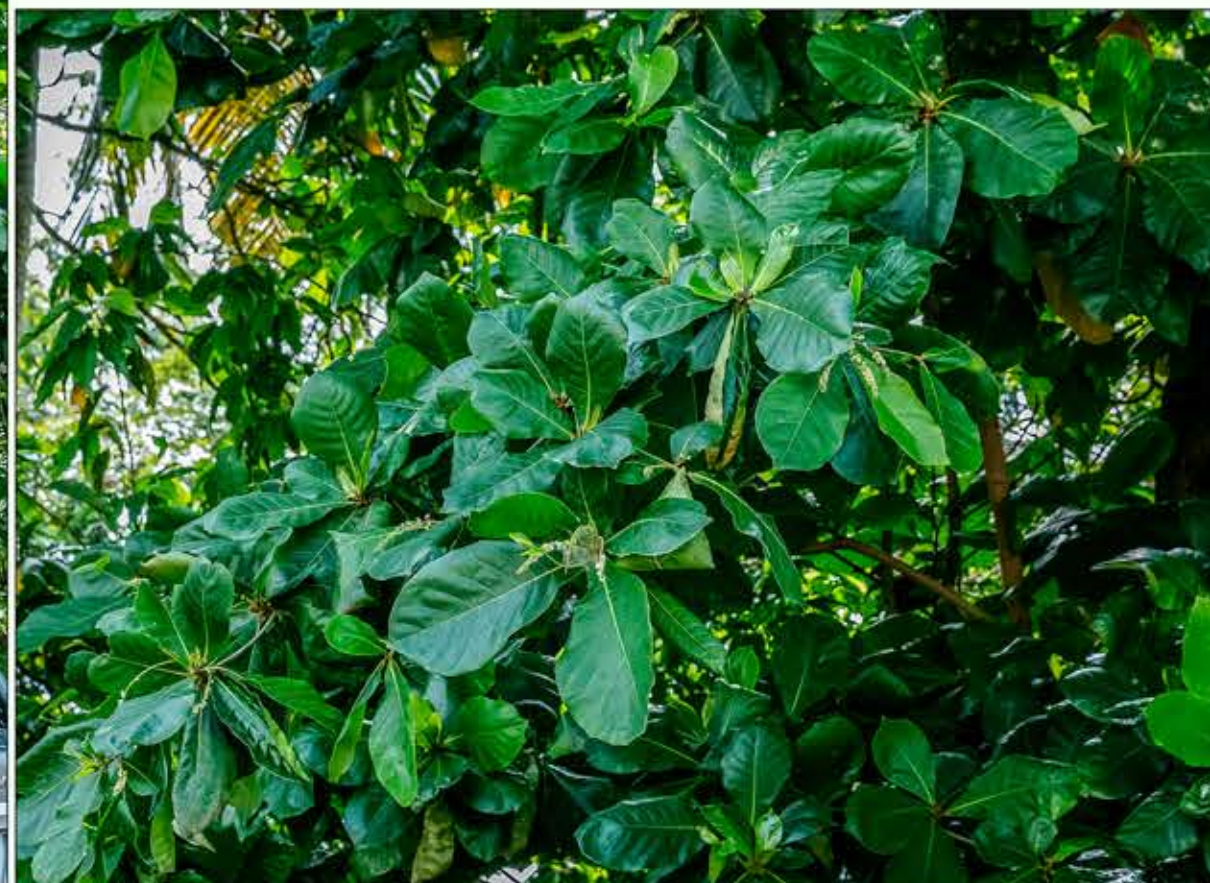
Acacia mangium

Mangifera indica





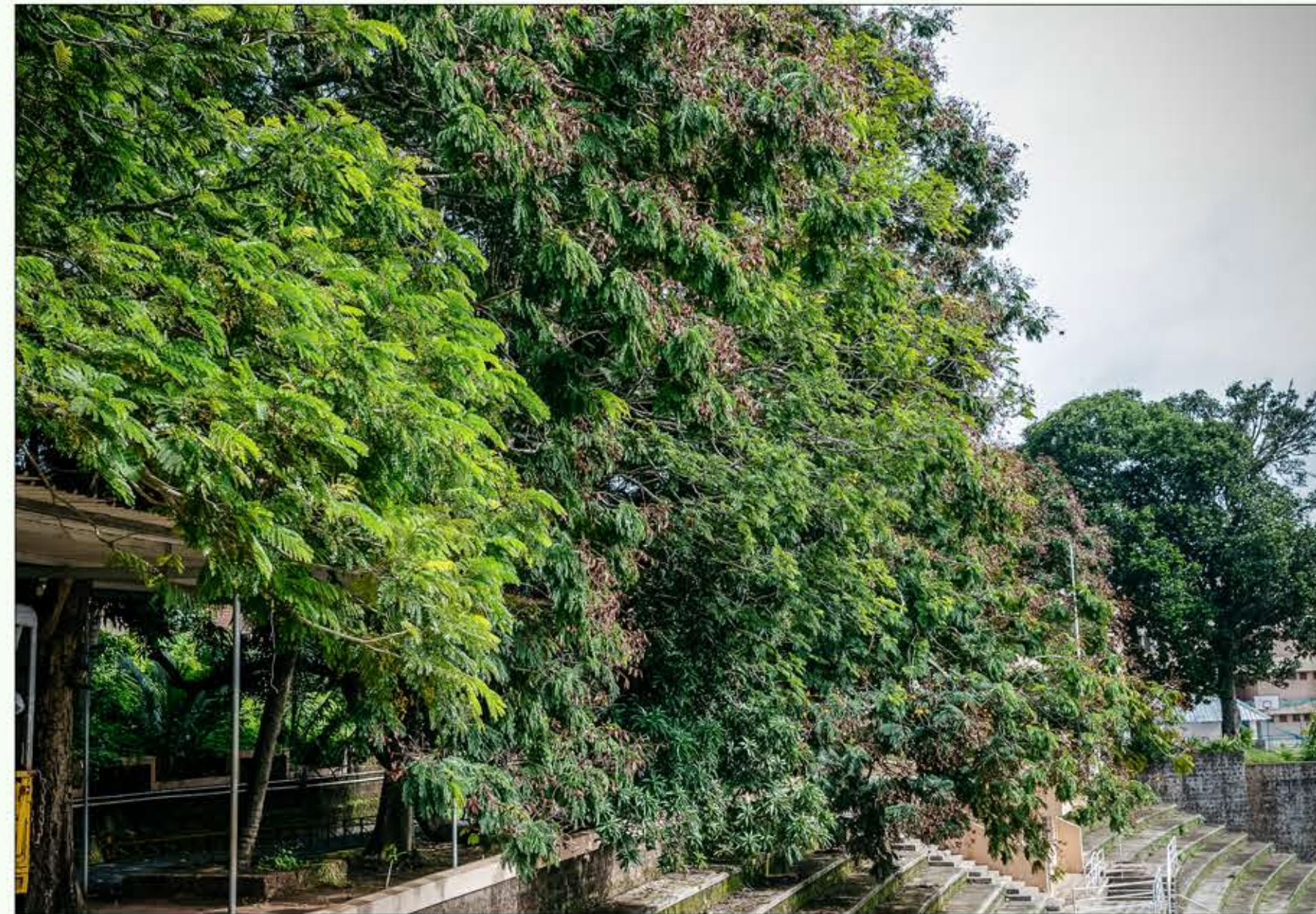
Terminalia catapa



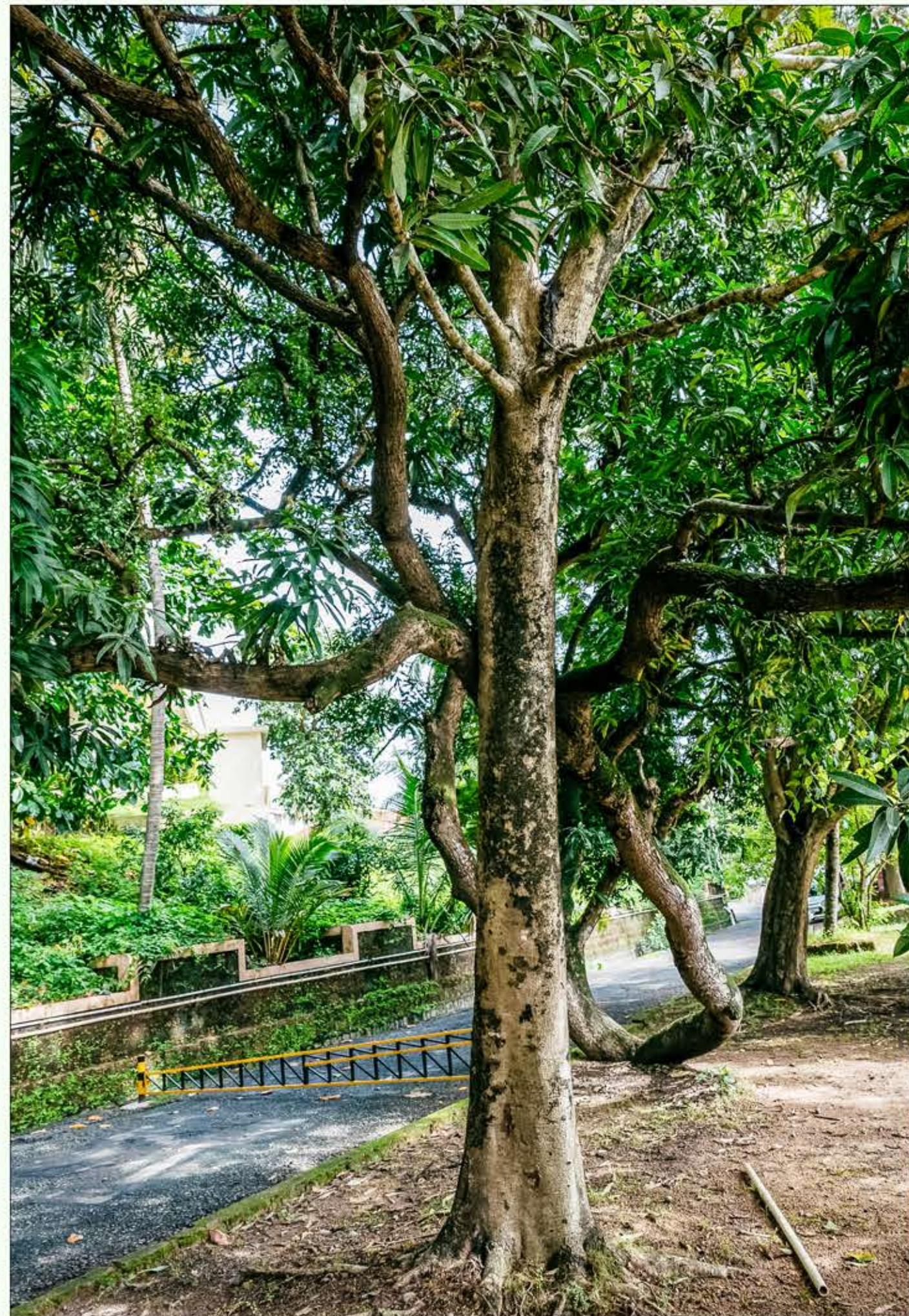
Artocarpus heterophyllus



**Magnolia
champaca**



**Peltophorum
pterocarpum**



Mangifera indica



Artocarpus hirsutus

