

## Xylarium

Wood is a versatile raw material, produced from a large number of tree species varying in their structure and strength properties and has been used by man from time immemorial. Glimpses of various virtues of our timbers are available in our ancient literature and religious texts. They have often laid down rather rigid instructions regarding the timbers to be used for different purposes. Strong and durable timbers have been enjoined as auspicious while the uses of weak and non durable ones have been tabooed as inauspicious. However, with the changing times, the use of timber and multiple products made out of it have changed. The subject has developed as a science during first and Second World War through out the world and scientific methods have been developed for rational utilization of the timber. Thus forest products became a part and parcel of human civilization. With advancement of his knowledge, the understanding and the use of raw material also seen many improvements. Unless knowledge is gained, which is a pre-requisite, the efficient utilization of timber becomes questionable. The word "Xylem" is derived from classical Greek xylon, wood and indeed the best known xylem tissue is wood. A xylarium is a collection of authenticated wood specimens that is well-curated and accessible to the scientific community.



Any research on wood structure and properties of trees need wood specimens. The Xylarium has their wood specimens. Wood structure study relates to descriptive and quantitative work on wood cells, whereas properties investigated include moisture content, density, shrinkage and strength of wood. The section also acts as a service to the forestry industry or individuals through the identification of wood, testing of basic wood properties and selling of wood samples.



*Xylarium at a national exhibition*