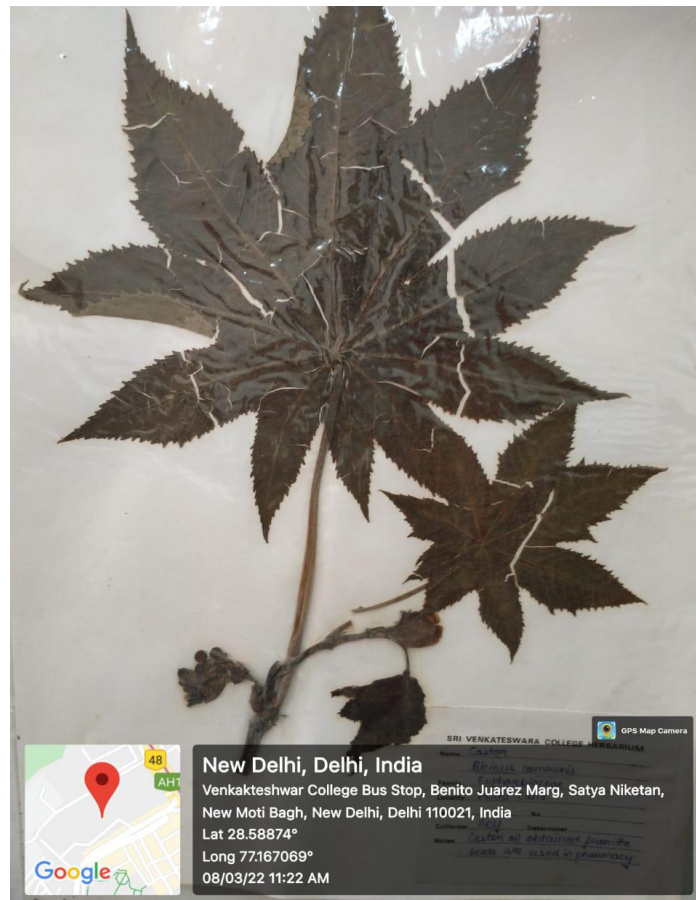


Ricinus communis



Common Name: Arandi, Castor oil plant

Scientific Name: *Ricinus communis*

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Castor oil plant is a species of perennial flowering plant in the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae. It is the sole species in the monotypic genus, *Ricinus*, and subtribe Riciniinae. The evolution of castor and its relation to other species are currently being studied using modern genetic tools. It reproduces with a mixed pollination system which favours selfing by geitonogamy but at the same time can be an out-croser by anemophily (wind pollination) or entomophily (insect pollination).

Economic Importance: Castor oil extracted from the seeds of *Ricinus communis* (Castor) is used as a lubricant, vegetable oil and purgative.