

DEN STORE BANYAN –
FICUS BENGHALENSIS L. (MORACEAE)
ET LIVSKRAFTIGT SYMBOL FOR INDISK
DENDROLOGI OG FOR INDIA BOTANIC
GARDEN, KOLKATA

af

MICHAEL STERLL
SNM, Botanisk Have & Museum
DK-1123 København K.
michaels@snm.ku.dk

The Great Banyan – *Ficus benghalensis* L. (Moraceae)
A most vigorous symbol of Indian dendrology and the India Botanic
Garden, Kolkata

Key words: Strangler-figs, colonial and economic botany, shellac, Nathaniel Wallich and the genera *Ficus* and *Hooker*.

SUMMARY

A brief history of the majestic specimen of *Ficus benghalensis* in India Botanic Garden, Kolkata and of its close relatives, botanic and human. A few comments on ethnobotany.