

We have a huge range of trees in the BBG and trying to come to terms with understanding them can be sometimes daunting. Breaking up the range into categories and identifying common features can help us progress. The Gondwana trees are one such group.

This year the Guides will have a monthly presentation in the conservatory on the tree of the month and the focus this year will be on our Gondwana trees. These are the trees that were part of the larger land mass of Gondwana . Between 160 and 65 million years ago Gondwana split up , forming today's southern land masses (Antarctica, South America, Africa, Madagascar, Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia and New Zealand ). As tectonic plates of Gondwana moved to their present position they carried their trees with them and we now have closely related trees and plants with a common heritage in these widely separated land masses.

Gondwana trees are survivors from a far distant past when we had the southern supercontinent. They have survived many changes of climate and positions on our mobile earth and have witnessed the extinction of many species (including the dinosaurs) in the last 90 – 100 million years.



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