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*Dendrocalamus strictus*

[Synonyms : *Bambos stricta*, *Bambusa stricta*, *Nastus strictus*]

**MALE BAMBOO** is an evergreen bamboo. It is native to India.

It is also known as *Bans kaban* (Hindi), Calcutta bamboo, *Kalmungil* (Tamil), *Karail* (Bengali), *Sadanapa veduru* (Telugu), Solid bamboo, *Vans* (Gujarati), and *Vansha* (Sanskrit).

*Strictus* means ‘erect or upright’.

Male bamboo, with its drought-resistant qualities, is considered by many authorities to offer the greatest range of uses of all the species in this genus.

The stems are used for a remarkable variety of products, including construction eg. rafters, scaffolding, rafts, water pipes, furniture, musical instruments, paper pulp and charcoal. In northern India they are also used for basketry. In fact some authorities single out paper manufacture from the stem fibre as one of the most significant uses on a commercial scale.

Authorities have noted that in certain conditions male bamboo canes will exude a sweet sap of a similar type of sugar to that obtained from sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum*). In northern India the young stem is eaten as a cooked vegetable.

The leaves are fed to livestock.