

A rare incidence of unusual flowering in *Crateva adansonii* DC. (Capparaceae)

Flowering and fruiting in plants are interesting phenomenon. Some plants exhibit unusual flowering phenomenon. In *Corypha* palm, the flowers and fruits are produced only once in its lifespan (monocarpic or heparanthic) after attaining full vegetative growth of about 40 years; after fruiting the plant dies¹. Bamboos also flower only once at the end of a long vegetative phase, and this often followed by the death of the flowered

clumps². In some other plants like *Strobilanthes callosa* Nees (Karvi) and *S. kunthiana* (Nees) T. Anderson ex Benth. (Neelakurinji) found in the Western Ghats, mass flowering event is recorded in every 7 and 12 years respectively³.

The genus *Crateva* L. (Capparaceae) represented by about eight species and four subspecies is distributed in the northern hemisphere extending to southern Japan and in the southern hemisphere

up to northern Argentina. It is also found in Central and South America, Africa, Madagascar, Southeast Asia, Malesia, and the Pacific^{4,5}. *Crateva adansonii* subsp. *odora* (Buch.-Ham.) Jacobs is a tree species occasionally found in the Western Ghats; it flowers regularly once in a year between March and May⁵. During our survey in the Konkan region, we observed two individuals of *C. adansonii* subsp. *odora* (Figure 1) that flowered twice in a year in June and December at Hativale village (16°36'211"N and 73°32'831"E), Rajapur Tahsil, Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra. We continued to monitor these two individuals for the next three years and confirmed that they indeed flower twice in a year. Therefore, these individuals exhibit unusual flowering phenomenon which is not reported in the genus *Crateva*. This may be due to environmental or genetic factors, which need further studies.

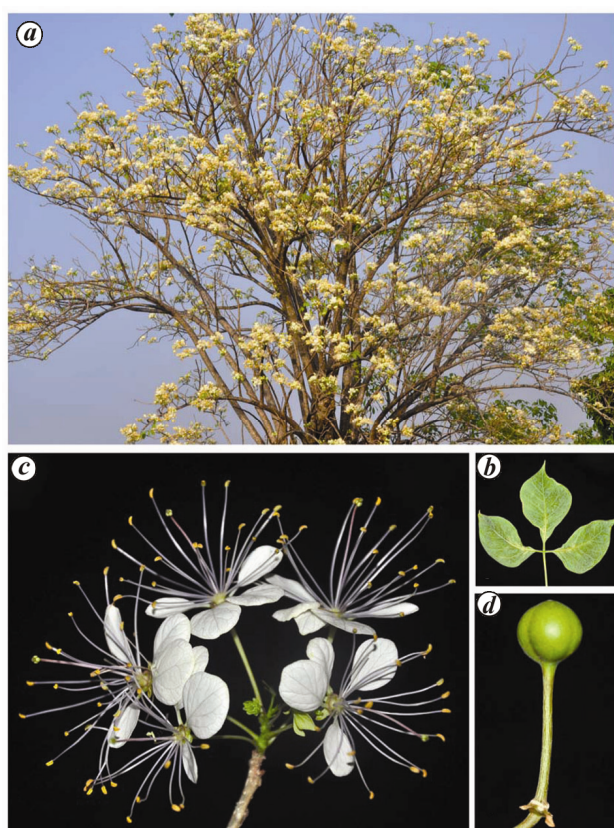


Figure 1. *Crateva adansonii* subsp. *odora* (Buch.-Ham.) Jacobs: **a**, Habit; **b**, leaf; **c**, flowers; **d**, fruit.

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