Research Paper Botany

# Occurrence Of Rare Plant *Adensonia Digitata* ( Bombacaceae) From Palamau Region of Jharkhand


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**ABSTRACT**

The present paper is related with occurrence of a rare exotic plant Adensonia digitata from Palamau region of Jharkhand state. This is a new record for this area.

**KEYWORDS** *Adensonia digitata,* Palamu, new record.

**Introduction:**
The Palamau region of Jharkhand is located at the latitude of 23.0$^0$ to 24.3$^0$ north and longitude 84.4$^0$ and 85.0$^0$ east, and spreads over 3.50 kms, from east to west and 3.45 kms from north to south. The river North Koel flows in east-west direction towards southern boundary of Daltonganj. It's a rich area from the floristic point of view. The floristic Studies in this area are very poor however there are records dates back to 1925 but it is still virgin area (Haines 1921-25,Santapau 1995) .The most recent floristic studies of this area are by Sarma & Sarkar (2002).

**(Plate No. 1- The whole tree)**

The family Bombacaceae is mostly represented in Indian flora by 3 common genera i.e. Bobax,Adensonia and Ciba. As per the previous records only one species of Bombacaceae i.e. Bombax ciba is recorded from this area. We hereby report the occurrence of A.digitata for the first time from Palamau division of Jharkhand state.Ihis is a rare exotic plant from Africa. There are very few living specimens of this plant in the different regions of India.Its common names are Bobab Monkey bread tree, cream of Tartar tree, lemonade tree.Its a very useful tree in Africa where due to its enormous girth it provides shelter to the people ,actually people make small houses,shops by making a cut in the stem of this plant. The fruit is also useful for making a refreshing drink. This plant is reported within the vicinity of Daltonganj town of Jharkhand.

**Photographs are presented in Plates no. 1 to 3.**

**(Plate No. 2- The Flower)**

**(Plate No. 3- The Fruit)**

**A short description of the plant is provided herewith.**
*Adensonia digitata L.:* It is a large deciduous tree, the trunk is very much thickened, totally out ofproportion to its height. The bark is thick, grey, and lustrous. The leaves are alternate, digitably compound, large ,smooth above and hairy below, leaflets 5-7, obovate-oblong or elliptic-oblong or elliptic-oblong, 3-10 x 1.5 – 5.0cm. Flowers are white, large, axillary,

solitary, hanging singly on long pendulous stalk. Each flower has a five locked calyx, hairy corolla with 5 petals, white with crinkled margin, recurved

upword; stamens numerous with golden anthers; through which pierces the cylinder style with 5-7 projecting stigmas, ovary 5-10 celled. The fruit is large, indehiscent ellipsoid to globose,green or brown woody capsules. Seeds kidney shaped enclosed within soft, white, acidic and fibrous pulp.

The flowering occurs from June to July followed by fruiting,

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