# STUDY ON FLORAL PARTS AND MALE FEMALE FLOWER RATIO OF THE JATROPHA CURCUS L. AND JATROPHA GOSSYPIFOLIA L. OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION OF INDIA

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#### ABSTRACT

The present study deals with the male female flower ratios and quantitative study of floral parts. *Jatropha curcus* L. had more male-female flower ratio (21.38±0.47:1) than that of *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. (20.44±0.15:1). In *Jatropha curcus* L. the male/female flower ratio in the rachis of the inflorescence varied from 17.50:1.08 to 23.75:1.Whereas, in *Jatropha gossypifolia* L.,the rachis of the inflorescence showed a range of male/female flower ratio varied from 16.67:0.07 to 23.08:0.83. The male and female flowers of *Jatropha curcus* L. were bigger than those of *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. The male flowers of *Jatropha curcus* L. was of same length while the male flower of *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. was smaller than female flower. The investigation revealed the different in male/female flower ratiosignificantly of *Jatropha curcus* L. and *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. which seems tocritical for the improvement of *Jatropha* seed yield.

Key words: Jatropha, Male-female flower, North-eastern India, yield.

## INTRODUCTION

The angiosperms are defined by their distinctive flowers which incorporate both male and female sex organs (stamens and carpals, respectively) (Sarah et.al. 1994). Floral biology is the detail description of and functions of floral parts including behavioural pattern (Dutta, 2004). Floral biology provides an evolution and functional significance of floral traits. Since the beginning of civilization, man has been accustomed to use flowers to make his festivals more festive. For plants, flowers are parts of sexual reproduction. They are the reproductive structure of seed bearing plants, characteristically having specialized male or female organs or both male and female organs such as stamens and a pistil, enclosed in an outer envelope of petals and sepals (Siddique, 1991).

Plant morphologists regard flowers as a shoot of determinate growth with highly condensed internodes, and the leaves specialized variously to shoot apex that are transformed into floral apex (Dafni *et al.*, 2005). Flowers exhibit a great variation in size, colour, shape and insertion of different floral whorls. The male gametes in the flowers are the pollen, while ovules are the female gametes. Though most plants produce flowers that have both male and female reproductive parts separately, male and female flowers bloom in the same plants.

Besides the evolution and functional significance of floral traits, information on floral biology and male and female flower ratio is extremely helpful in understanding the breeding behaviour in the species for their genetic improvement. Haber (1925) has described the morphology of Cyathium. Saunders (1939) gave an account of the floral anatomy of a few species of mercurialis Euphorbia, Spurge and Riccinuscommunis. The present account deals with aimed to investigate the floral biology of Jatropha curcus L. and Jatropha gossypifolia L. that would help in formulating breeding strategy for genetical improvement of these two species.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Determination of male and female flower ratio

For this study, 12 healthy and normal plants of *Jatrophacurcus* L. and *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. were selected from different geographical locations. In each plant 12 inflorescences were considered for the study. In each inflorescence 12 rachis were taken into account and the numbers of male and female flowers were visually counted in each rachis.

The ratio of male and female flowers was worked out and as expressed per rachis.

### Quantitative study of floral parts

Quantitative study of floral parts of *Jatropha curcus* L. and *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. were carried out from 12 plants of different geographical locations. In each plant 12 male and 12 female flowers were considered for the study. In each flower the separate floral parts were taken into account and the measurements of the floral parts were done for both male and female flowers separately. Average of measurement from 12 plants were recorded.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### Male and female flower ratio

One of the most likely reasons for poor yield is that *Jatropha* has few female flowers resulting from a very low female-to-male flower ratio, which, depending on the genotype, is about 1:29–1:13 (Raju and Ezradanam, 2002; Tewari and

others, 2007). Thus, increasing the number of female flowers seems critical for the improvement of Jatropha seed yield. However, the present investigation revealed that Jatrophacurcus and Jatropha gossypifolia differs significantly in their male/female flower ratio (Table No.1 and 2). Table No. 4 and 5 clearly shows that Jatropha curcus L. had more male/female flower ratio (21.38±0.47:1) than that of Jatropha gossypifolia L. (20.44±0.15:1). In Jatropha curcus L. the male/female flower ratio in the rachis of the inflorescence varied from 17.50:1.08 to 23.75:1. The total number of male and female flowers in Jatropha curcus L. was of 3080 male flower and 87 female flowers. Similarly in Jatropha gossypifolia L. rachis of the inflorescence exhibit a range of male/female flower ratio from 16.67:0.07 to 23.08:0.83. Total number of male and female flowers in Jatropha gossypifolia L. was of 2897 male flower and 83 female flowers. Thus, it is clear from the Table No. 4 and 5 that the male/female flower ratio in Jatropha curcus L. was more than that found in Jatropha gossypifolia L.

of Nis											Numl	per o	of Plar	nts										
No. of rachis	I		II		ш		IV		v		VI		VII		VIII		хі		х		хі		хіі	
	М	F	М	F	М	F	Μ	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F
1	15	1	20	1	26	1	27	1	21	1	29	2	30	2	23	1	25	1	18	1	28	1	16	1
2	20	1	27	2	21	1	26	1	21	1	29	1	27	1	22	1	26	1	18	1	28	1	16	1
3	14	1	19	1	20	1	26	1	21	1	27	1	27	1	21	1	26	1	29	1	25	1	28	1
4	19	1	12	1	19	1	25	2	18	1	27	1	23	1	21	1	25	1	29	1	24	1	28	1
5	12	2	16	1	19	1	21	1	18	1	16	1	22	1	18	1	25	1	28	1	21	1	27	1
6	12	1	19	1	19	1	21	1	16	1	16	1	23	1	18	1	16	0	13	0	20	1	21	1
7	17	1	20	1	18	1	29	1	18	1	13	1	24	1	26	1	17	1	12	0	16	0	18	1
8	13	0	20	1	16	1	27	1	19	1	18	1	24	1	28	1	17	0	12	1	13	0	18	1
9	16	1	26	1	14	1	16	1	13	0	18	1	21	1	28	1	17	0	25	1	14	1	27	1
10	25	1	26	1	17	1	18	1	26	2	19	1	20	1	27	1	26	1	25	1	14	0	25	1
11	27	1	24	1	29	1	15	1	29	1	16	1	19	1	28	1	27	1	26	1	26	1	14	0
12	20	2	22	1	28	1	26	1	29	1	15	1	17	1	25	1	27	1	26	1	25	1	15	0
Mean values	17.5 ± 1.41	$1.08 \pm 0.15$	2091 ± 1.27	$1.08 \pm 0.08$	20.5 ± 1.37	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	23.08 ± 1.36	$1.08 \pm 0.08$	20.75 ± 1.44	$1.00 \pm 0.12$	20.25 ± 1.72	$1.08 \pm 0.08$	23.08 ± 1.06	1.08 ± 0.08	23.75 ± 1.09	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	22.83 ± 1.31	0.75 ± 0.13	21.75 ± 1.94	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	21.17 ± 1.63	$0.75 \pm 0.13$	21.08 ± 1.60	$0.08 \pm 0.11$
M/F ratio	M/F ratio 17.50 : 1.08		20.91 : 1.08		20.50 : 1.00		23.08 - 1.08		20 75 - 1 00	•	20.25 : 1.08		23.08 - 1.08		23 75 - 1 00		77 83 · U 75	5	21.75 : 0.83		21.17:0.75		21.08 : 1.00	

### Table 1: Male Female flower ratio in *Jatropha curcus* L.

Mean M/F Ratio=21.38 ± 0.47: 1

I - XII = No. of plants.

M = Male flower per rachis of the inflorescence.

F = Female flower per rachis of the inflorescence.

Table 2: Male Female flower ratio	in Jatropha	gossypifolia L.
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of rachis	Number of Plants																							
No. of ra	Ι		II	11 111		IV		v	VI		VII		VIII		XI		x		XI		XII			
	Μ	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	Μ	F	Μ	F	М	F	Μ	F
1	13	1	26	1	18	1	26	1	29	1	27	1	25	1	21	1	26	1	25	1	28	1	18	1
2	12	0	26	1	19	1	18	1	27	1	13	0	21	1	25	1	25	1	13	0	16	1	29	1
3	17	1	20	1	18	1	15	0	16	1	16	0	12	0	28	1	26	1	14	0	17	1	30	1
4	15	0	21	1	17	1	16	0	14	0	16	1	19	1	28	1	25	1	14	0	14	0	16	0
5	20	0	24	1	17	1	29	1	18	1	15	0	16	1	26	1	12	0	26	1	13	0	12	0
6	19	1	22	1	15	1	27	1	21	1	29	1	29	1	23	1	13	0	16	0	25	1	10	0
7	14	0	19	0	13	0	21	1	20	0	29	1	23	1	20	1	12	1	28	1	29	1	15	0
8	16	1	16	0	14	0	25	1	21	1	27	1	24	1	18	1	29	1	28	1	27	1	19	1
9	25	1	27	1	11	0	21	1	16	0	27	1	18	1	17	0	28	1	24	1	26	1	25	1
10	20	1	15	0	29	1	26	1	13	0	25	1	13	0	16	0	29	1	21	1	25	1	27	1
11	27	1	13	0	13	1	27	1	19	1	15	1	15	1	20	1	18	1	25	1	21	1	27	1
12	17	0	12	0	16	1	26	1	18	1	18	1	28	1	19	0	19	1	23	1	20	1	10	0
Mean values	17.92 ± 1.32	$0.58 \pm 0.15$	20.08 ± 1.50	$0.58 \pm 0.15$	16.67 ± 1.32	0.75 ± .013	23.08 ± 1.36	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	19.33 ± 1.38	0.67 ± 0.14	21.41 ± 1.83	0.75 ± 0.13	20.25 ± 1.64	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	21.75 ± 1.20	0.83 ± 0.07	21.83 ± 1.93	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	21.42 ± 1.64	0.67 ± 0.42	21.75 ± 1.64	$0.83 \pm 0.11$	19.83 ± 2.16	0.58 ± 0.15
Male/Female flower ratio	17.92 :0.15		20.08.05		16 67 · 0 7E		23 08 - 0 83	5	230.000	0	1 1 1 0 75	0.00.11.17	20 25 - 0 83		21.75:0.83		71 83 • 0 81		21 42 · 0 67	10:0 : 71:17	21 75 · 0 83		10.02.01	0C.U . CO.EI

Mean M/F ratio=20.44± 0.15:1

I – XII = Number of plants.

M = Male flower per rachis of the inflorescence.F = Female flower per rachis of the inflorescence.

# Quantitative study of floral parts

The length of the flower and its parts in *Jatropha curcus* L. and *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. is shown in the Table No. 3 and 4. Tables show that the range of length of different floral parts was as follow.

# A. Jatropha curcus L.

## 1. Male flower.

- (i). Flowers 5 mm to 7 mm.
- (ii) Petioles 5 mm to 7 mm.
- (iii). Sepals 3 mm to 5 mm.
- (iv). Petals 7 mm to 10 mm.
- (v). Filaments 3.8 mm to 4 mm and
- (vi). Anther lobes 1.8 mm to 2 mm.

## 2. Female flower.

- (i). Flowers 5 mm to 7 mm.
- (ii) Petioles 6 mm to 7 mm.
- (iii). Sepals 3.5 mm to 7 mm.
- (iv). Petals 4 mm to 8 mm.
- (v). Style 1 mm.
- (vi). Stigma 1 mm and
- (vii). Ovaries 2.9 mm to 3 mm.

			Male Fl	ower			Female flower							
No. of plants	in mm.	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	Andro	th of ecium' nm)	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)		of (mm)		
	Length of petiole in mm.	Length of firs. (mm)	Length of sepals (mm)	Length of petals (mm)	Filaments	Anther lobes	Length of petiole (mm)	Length of flrs. (mm)	Length of sepals (mm)	Length of petals (mm)	Style	Stigma	Ovary	
1.	10	7	5	10	4	2	9	7	6.5	8	1	1	3	
2.	10	7	5	10	4	2	6	7	3.5	8	1	1	3	
3.	9	6	4	9	4	2	9	7	7	4	1	1	3	
4.	7	6	5	7	3.9	2	9	6	6	7	1	1	3	
5.	5	7	5	10	3.8	2	9	7	6	7	1	1	3	
6.	10	7	5	10	3.9	1.9	9	6	6.4	8	1	1	3	
7.	10	7	3	9	3.9	2	8	5	6	6	1	1	2.9	
8.	9	5	5	10	4	2	8	7	6	6	1	1	2.9	
9.	10	6	5	8	4	1.8	7	7	3.5	5	1	1	3	
10.	10	7	5	10	4	2	9	5	6	8	1	1	3	
11.	9	7	4	9	4	2	9	7	6	8	1	1	2.9	
12.	9	5	4	10	3.8	2	8	7	7	7	1	1	3	
Range of flower parts	5-10	5-7	3-5	7-10	3.8-4	1.8-2	6-9	5-7	3.5-7	4-8	0	0	2.9-3	
Mean values	9.00 ± 0.44	6.42 ± 0.22	4.58 ± 0.18	9.33 ± 0.28	3.94 ± 0.02	1.98 ± 0.02	8.33 ± 0.28	6.50 ± 0.23	5.82 ± 0.33	6.83 ± 0.38	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	$1.00 \pm 0.00$	2.97 ± 0.01	

## Table 3: Measurement of different floral parts of Jatropha curcus L.

## B. Jatropha gossypifolia L.

### 1. Male flower.

- (i). Flowers 3 mm to 5 mm.
- (ii) Petioles 1.5 mm to 3 mm.
- (iii). Sepals 3.2 mm to 4.2 mm.
- (iv). Petals 5 mm to 6 mm.
- (v). Filaments 1.6 mm to 2 mm and
- (vi). Anther lobes 1 mm to 1.3 mm.

# 2. Female flower.

- (i). Flowers 5 mm to 6 mm.
- (ii) Petioles 1 mm to 1.2 mm.
- (iii). Sepals 2.5 mm to 3 mm.
- (iv). Petals 4.6 mm to 5 mm.
- (v). Style 1 mm.
- (vi). Stigma 0.98 to 1 mm and
- (vii). Ovaries 2.8 mm to 3 mm.

The Table No. 3 clearly indicated that the length of male and female flower was similar in the *Jatropha curcus* L. (5 mm to 7 mm). In the same species when male and female flowersare taken into for measurement, the length of the flowers was found to be in the range between 3 mm to 5 mm in case of male flowers and 5 mm to 6 mm in case of female flowers in*Jatropha gossypifolia* L. (Table No.4).

Thus, it is clear that the male and female flowers of *Jatropha curcus* L. were bigger than those of *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. The male and female flowers of *Jatropha curcus* L. was of same length while the male flower of *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. was smaller than female flower.

			Male Flo	wer				Fem	ale flowe	er				
No. of plants	etiole in I.	rs. (mm)	່ sepals (r	petals (ກ	Androe	th of cium's m)	petiole 1)	rs. (mm)	່ sepals (ເ	petals (ກ	Length of Gynoecium's (mm)			
No. o Length of p	Length of petiole in mm.	Length of flrs. (mm)	Length of sepals (mm)	Length of petals (mm)	Filaments	Anther lobes	Length of petiole (mm)	Length of flrs. (mm)	Length of sepals (mm)	Length of petals (mm)	Style	Stigma	Ovary	
1.	2	4	4	6	2	1	1	6	3	5	1	1	3	
2.	3	5	4	6	2	1.2	1	5	3	5	1	1	3	
3.	2	5	4	6	2	1	1	5	3	5	1	1	3	
4.	2	5	3.8	5	2	1	1	5	2.9	5	1	1	3	
5.	1.8	4.8	3.8	6	1.8	1	1	5	2.9	5	1	1	3	
6.	3	3	4.2	5.8	1.6	1.3	1.2	6	2.7	4.9	1	1	3	
7.	2	4.5	3.8	5.7	2	1.2	1.1	6	3	4.9	1	.98	2.9	
8.	2	4	3.5	5.6	2	1.2	1.2	6	3	4.9	1	.97	2.9	
9.	2	5	3.2	5.8	2	1	1	5.6	3	4.6	1	.97	2.8	
10.	2	5	4	6	2	1	1	5.6	3	5	1	1	3	
11.	1.7	4	4	6	1.8	1	1	5.8	3	5	1	1	3	
12.	1.5	5	4	6	1.9	1	1	6	2.5	5	1	1	3	
Range of flower parts	1.5-3	3-5	3.2-4.2	5-6	1.6-2	1-1.3	1-1.2	5-6	2.5-3	4.6-5	1	.98-1	2.8-3	
Mean values	8 ± 0.13	± 0.19	± 0.08	± 0.08	± 0.04	· ± 0.03	· ± 0.02	; ± 0.13	± 0.04	· ± 0.03	± 0.00	± 0.00	± 0.00	
Mea	2.08	4.52	3.85	5.82	1.92	1.07	1.04	5.58	2.92	4.94	1.00	0.99	2.97	

### Table 4: Measurement of different floral parts of Jatropha gossypifolia L.

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