

*Short Communication*

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**ABROMA ANGUSTA AND ITS HETEROPHYLLIC FOLIAGE**

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This a better illustrated version of a previous article [1] which is probably unavailable to many readers of this journal. At Pabna, Bangladesh, I found *Abroma augusta* L. is called Ulatkambel and its bark is used as a uterine tonic. However it is most interesting botanically. It reveals heterophyllic foliage. Fig. 1 shows its normal vegetative leaf



Fig. 1.

pentagonal in shape. The leaves on the top and below show normal forms of leaf Fig. 2 represents the major part of a single tree photographed from the south. It was growing very near the house where I resided not further away than a yard from one of the doors. The tree down below shows the pentagonal type of leaf, marked as I, which represents the vegetative condition of the plant. As the tree begins to flower and produce fruits the foliage shows a change. The leaf marked, 2, shows a cardiac shape. As the stage of bearing fruit advances, leaves show more elongation and



Fig. 2.

assume a lanceolate type. Such a leaf is marked 3. In fact if a tree shows such lanceolate type of leaves it is the sure sign that the tree is also bearing fruits. These are very characteristic resembling an English Bidrop's headdress. It is obvious that the plant from its vegetative stage advancing to the reproductive stage produces phytohormones which are responsible for shortening the leaf surface and thereby effect changes in the shape of the leaves. The plant appears to be ideal for such a study and as it is easy to grow it is worth while studying it experimentally.

There is another observation which may be recorded. The fruits show phototropism probably most to ultra-violet light. Most fruits pointed upwards facing the light that came directly from above. But some, where light reached them early enough, they pointed to South-East.

Such was the fruit marked 4. The phenomenon requires a deeper study which would repay, the labour spent on it. The subject deserves the attention of plant-physiologists and biochemists studying plant hormones. It is with this intention that I feel the article may be published in this journal.

*Key words:* *Abroma angusta*, Heterophyllic Foliage.

## REFERENCES

1. S. Mahdihassan, *Pflanzenphysiologie*, **66** (1), 288 (1972).