

A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF BICARPELLARY PISTILS IN THE FLOWER OF SARACA INDICA

BY

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Last session an *Ashok* tree (*Saraca Indica*), growing in our College Botanical Garden, was observed to have produced a few abnormal flowers, which I have thought advisable to mention here. The normal flower, like all the other members of *Caesalpinioideae* has a monocarpellary pistil but the flowers in question have two carpels each—an abnormality which does not appear to be due to a pathological condition, especially as the plant is quite healthy and all the other flowers of the same bunch were showing typical healthy signs.

So far as I have been able to find out, this abnormality in *Saraca Indica* has not been recorded. Rendle in "The Classification of Flowering Plants," Vol. II (1925 Edition), page 359, says: "Departures from a monocarpellary pistil are rare. *Toumatea dicarpa* (*Caesalpinioideae*) has two carpels, while in several genera of the Tribe *Ingeae* (*Mimosoideae*) there are more than one." But he does not mention anything about the genus *Saraca*.

To illustrate this deviation from the normal I have made two diagrams: 'A' showing the abnormal condition here described, and 'B' the normal. In both cases the stamens were removed to give a clearer view of the pistil.

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