



Rizvi Education Society's  
**RIZVI COLLEGE**  
OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE

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# BOTANY BUZZ

E-NEWSLETTER

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A NEWSLETTER BY  
STUDENTS OF  
BOTANY

Botany Buzz is launched by the students of Botany of Rizvi college of Arts, science and commerce. Its aim is to propagate the knowledge outside the syllabus and let student's creativity flow.

The staff and the students are grateful to the Management and the Principal for their support to the student community. The newsletter is aimed to be quarterly.

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## THE BIG BLOOM:

### How the flowering plants change the world?



## DID THE FIRST FLOWER LOOK LIKE THIS?

Three was the magic number for the very first flowering plant. The largest study into their early evolution has concluded that its flowers probably had petal-like tepals and pollen-bearing stamens arranged in layered whorls of three. It bore similarities with magnolias, buttercups and laurels – but was unlike any living flower.

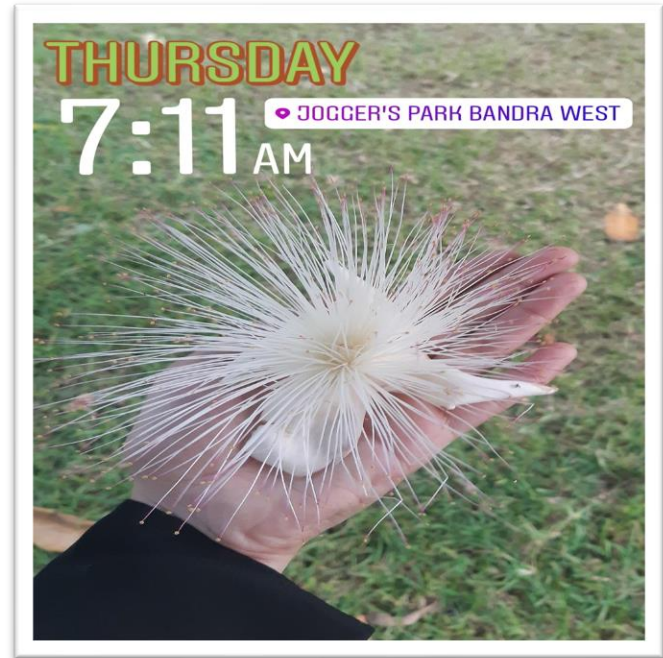
*Rafflesia arnoldii* (SMELLY FLOWER) growing to the east of the Lake Maninjau, Sumatra, Indonesia. Henrik Hansson. External link Plants of the World Online, Kewscience.

The flower with the world's largest bloom is the *Rafflesia arnoldii*. This rare flower is found in the rainforests of Indonesia. It can grow to be 3 feet across and weigh up to 15 pounds! It is a parasitic plant, with no visible leaves, roots, or stem. It attaches itself to a host plant to obtain water and nutrients.

~ Javeriya Quereshi: T.Y.BSc



*Rafflesia arnoldii* (corpse flower)



## **Barringtonia racemosa AT JOGGER'S PARK**

The Garden Jogger's park which is located at Bandra West, Mumbai is full of this fascinating tree *Barringtonia racemosa* tree. It is commonly called as Powder Puff tree.

Order: Ericales

Family: Lecythidaceae

Genus: *Barringtonia*

Species: *B. racemosa*

Common name: Powder Puff tree

It is commonly known as powder puff tree or fish poison tree or freshwater mangrove. It is a beautiful mangrove tree easily recognized by its large leaves delicate pinkish or white flowers and guava like fruit that hang in long racemes. The flowers give off a pungent, putrid yet faintly sweet odour in the morning. Powder puff mangrove is globally distributed from East Africa to West Pacific. In India it has been recorded in West Coast from Konkan Southwards through Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu often planted as ornamental. It is found in Sunderbans and in Andamans.

### **Uses:**

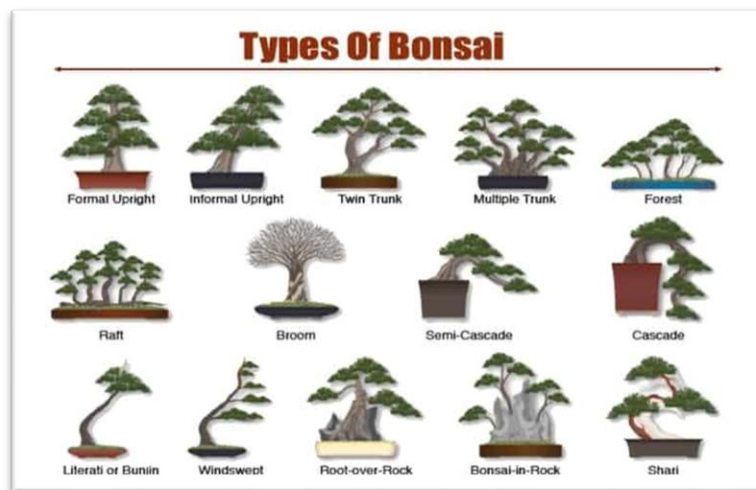
Edible uses: Raw or cooked as vegetable by first removing its bitterness.

Medicinal Uses: The decoction of bark is externally applied as an antirheumatic and to treat chicken pox.

Its fruit is used to treat Asthama, coughs and diarrhea.

The decoction of its scraped nut is used to treat sinusitis or bronchitis and cough.

~ *Aqsa Shaikh: T.Y.BSc*



## BONSAI

The word “Bon- sai” is a Japanese term which, literally translated, means “planted in a container”. This art form is derived from an ancient Chinese horticultural practice, part of which was then redeveloped under the influence of Japanese Zen Buddhism.

A Bonsai tree is carefully shaped to remain small but still has the appearance of a large tree. It does not need large pots but small containers and not much of soil. A Bonsai container has holes in the bottom which are covered by small nets so that the soil does not flow out with the water. The plant is then taken out of its original pot and one-third of its root is cut off. It is then tied with the bottom of the pot with the help of the wires. Soil is then spread over it to cover the container, but about an inch of the root is allowed to stay above the soil to enhance beauty.

**BONSAI STYLES:** Broom, Formal upright, Informal upright, Slanting, Cascade

**EXAMPLES:** Japanese Maple Bonsai (*Acer palmatum*), Trident Maple Bonsai (*Acer buergerianum*), Dwarf Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), Chinese elm Bonsai (*Ulmus parviflora*)

~ *Maniyar Fatima: T.Y.BSc*



## Venus Flytrap: *Dionaea muscipula*

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Venus's flytrap, perennial carnivorous plant of the sundew family (Droseraceae), notable for its unusual habit of catching and digesting insects and other small animals.

Venus flytraps do not rely on carnivory for energy but rather use the nitrogen-rich animal proteins to enable their survival in marginal soil conditions.

The leaves are 8–15 cm (3–6 inches) long and have blades that are hinged along the midline so that the two nearly circular lobes, with spiny teeth along their margins, can fold together and enclose an insect alighting on them.

This action is triggered by pressure on six sensitive hairs, three on each lobe.

In normal daytime temperatures the lobes, when stimulated by prey, snap shut in about half a second. Glands on the leaf surface then secrete a red sap that digests the insect's body and gives the entire leaf a red, flowerlike appearance. About 10 days are required for digestion, after which the leaf reopens. The trap dies after capturing three or four insects.

~ Huda Shaikh: F.Y.BSc



## **CORPSE FLOWER *Amorphophallus titanum***

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Alternative Titles – Titan Arum, Corpse Flower or Corpse Plant

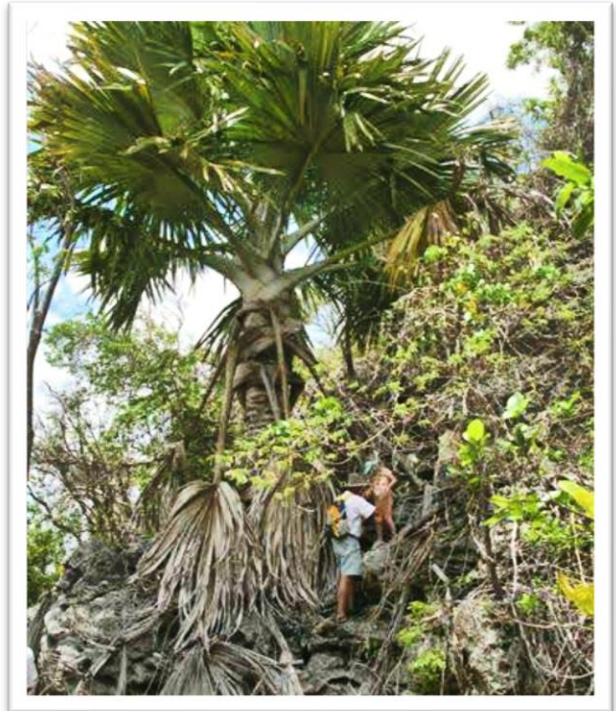
*Amorphophallus titanum*, the titan arum, is a flowering plant with the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world. The talipot palm, *Corypha umbraculifera*, has a larger inflorescence, but it is branched rather than unbranched. *Amorphophallus titanum* is endemic to Sumatra.

The titan arum's berries arrange in a regular cylindrical form that resemble the packing of spheres inside a cylindrical confinement. Those structures are also called columnar structures or crystals.

Due to its odor, like that of a rotting corpse, the titan arum is characterized as a carrion flower, and is also known as the corpse flower or corpse plant (Indonesian: bunga bangkai—bunga means flower, while bangkai can be translated as corpse, cadaver, or carrion).

The titan arum's inflorescence can reach over 3 meters (10 ft.) in height. Like the related cuckoo pint and calla lily, it consists of a fragrant spadix of flowers wrapped by a spathe, which looks like a large petal. In the case of the titan arum, the spathe is a deep green on the outside and dark burgundy red on the inside, with a deeply furrowed texture. The spadix is hollow and resembles a large baguette. Near the bottom of the spadix, hidden from view inside the sheath of the spathe, the spadix bears two rings of small flowers. The upper ring bears the male flowers, the lower ring is spangled with bright red-orange carpels.

~ *Sobiya Bhaldar: F.Y.BSc*



## SUICIDE PALM

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Scientific name: *Tahina spectabilis*

Main habitat: Madagascar

### What is suicide palm?

The "suicide palm" is a self destructing palm tree that flowers only every 100 years and then dies and has been 5 on the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar!

A gigantic, suicidal palm has been discovered recently. The palm represents a genus seen nowhere else in the world and a unique conversation challenge for a nation.

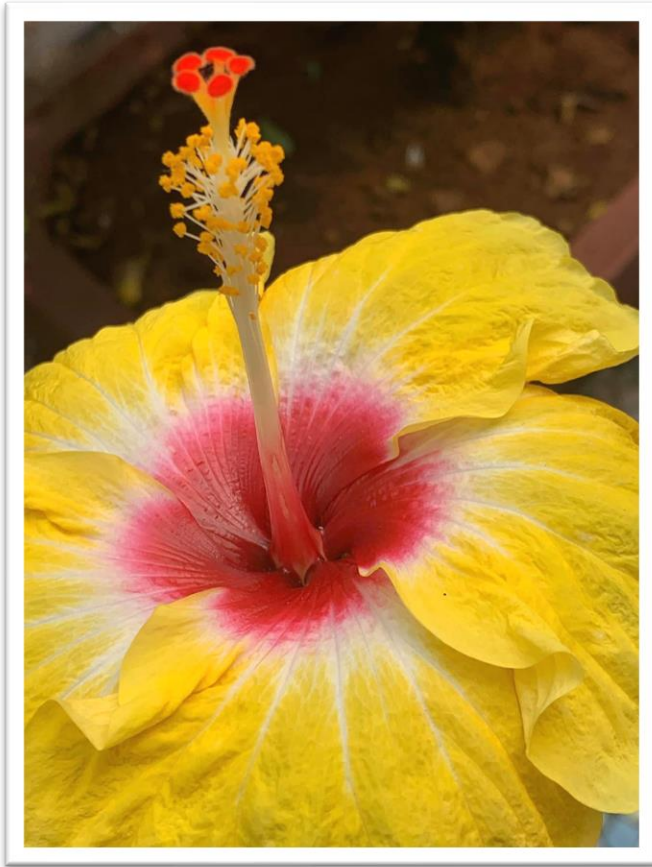
This palm is really amazing discovery"says palm biologist scott zona and also it adds a completely new branch to the palm family tree.

It is found in 2005 by Xavier Metz. The tree grows to 60 feet in height,has leaves that span 16 feet and lives for 50 years. The plant gets its name from How it meets its demise. At the end of its life ,the stem tips explode in a massive show.

Of tiny flowers capable of being pollinated and developing into new fruits. The nectar from the plant draws insects and birds. However, the colourful exposition exhausts the plant draining its nutritional supply and it dies.

- Suicide palm: (*Corypha umbraculifera*)
- *Tahina Spectabilis*: (Blessed palm)

~ Waziya Rizvi: F.Y.BSc



FIRST FLOOR GEM

*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

