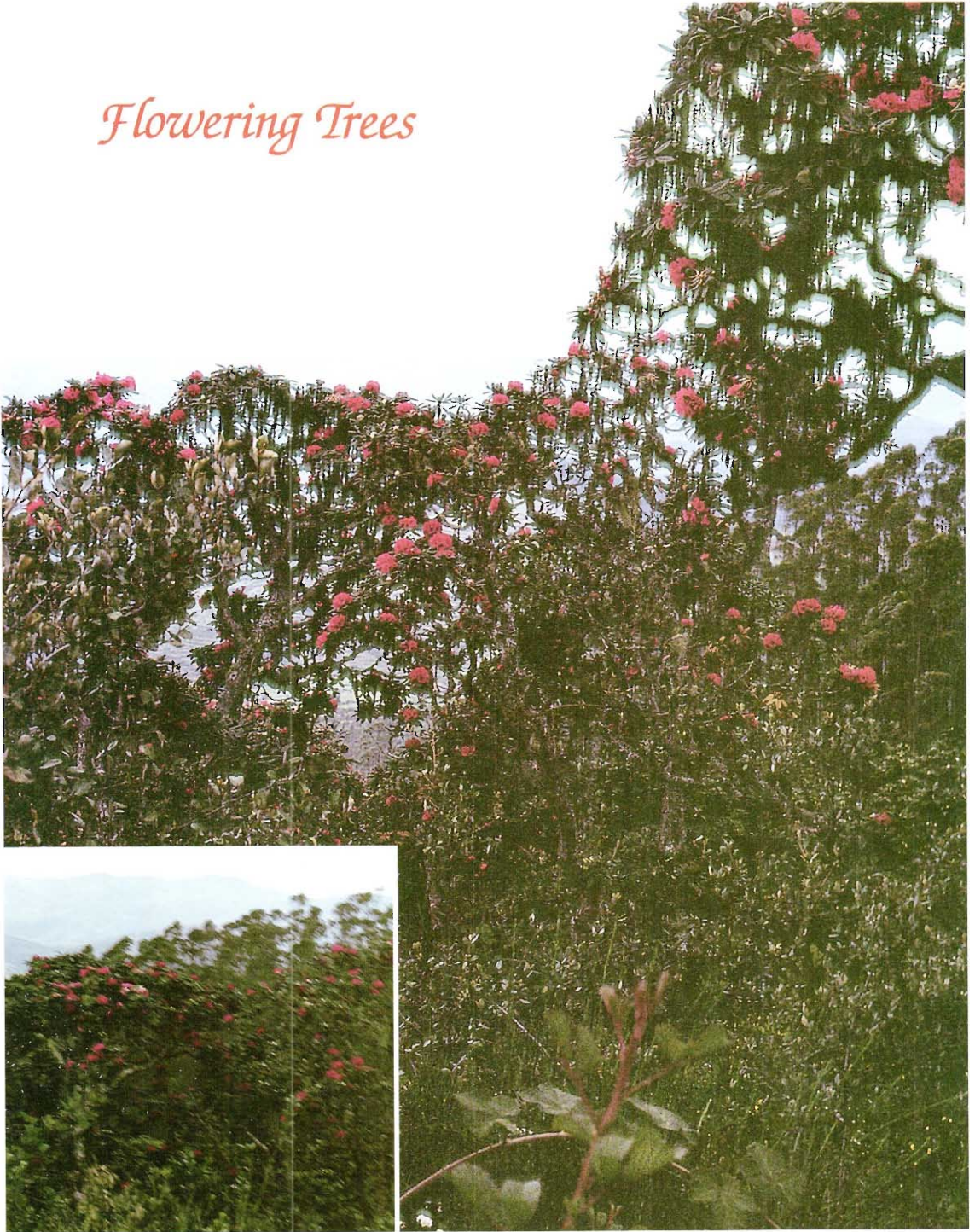


Flowering Trees



Rhododendron arboreum Sm. (Ericaceae) is a small tree confined to the exposed hilltops of Nilgiris and Pulneys. Leaves are stiff, elliptical, dark-green above and silvery-white or rusty underneath. Flowers are conspicuous, blood-red or crimson in dense terminal bunches, 4 to 8 inches across. Fruit is a woody capsule. Rhododendrons are highly ornamental and hence are grown in parks and gardens.