



Flowering Trees

Polyalthia coffeoides Hook.f. & Thomson is a rare tree of the evergreen forests belonging to the family Annonaceae, i.e., the custard apple family. The peculiarity of this species is that it produces flowers directly on the main trunk of the tree, a phenomenon called cauliflory which is one of the characteristic features observed in many tropical woody plants. This tree is found only in Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.



Erratum: Please note the correct text for the flowering tree printed in Vol.17, No.10, October 2012 issue. *Humboldtia brunonis* Wall., is a small understory tree found in evergreen forest of the Western Ghats. One of the interesting features of this plant is that some parts of its branches are hollow and these cavities which are referred to as domatia, provide shelter to small invertebrates such as ants and earthworms. Such symbiotic associations between plants and animals provide an interesting study system for studying co-evolution and how these organisms are benefited through such an association.