

Observation of branching in *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb.

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SUMMARY

During the course of Normal Natural field trips near the costal line of Tithal coastal area, good number of plants of Arecaceae (Palmaceae) were observed. Out of twenty five plants only one plant differed in morphological feature where after a height of 20 feet the trunk has been divided in to two branches.

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Key words : *Phoenix sylvestris*, Tithal, Dichotomous branch

When we are going through the literature we came to know that in monocots and specially in family Arecaceae (Palmaceae) the branches in stem regularly present in *Hyphaenae indica* (Diu plam) where dichotomous branching is common. During our course of study we found the branching in *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb. Bhatt *et al.* (1984) reported six well developed branched at apex or at terminal place. Bhatt *et al.* (2004) reported in *Cocos nucifera* a polyembryony and observed from one coconut fruit, two and three plants have been developed and they produce the fruit also.

As a matter of fact the process or methodology is not required. The photograph itself shown the observation. During our normal field work we observe this particular plant on the right side of Saibaba temple at Tithal Coast.

Branching in *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb. was observed for first time from Gujarat Bhatt, Patel (1984). With references of other work we are unable to notice that no where this type of work has been recorded. However, Blatter (1928) reported a wild date palm with fourteen branches from the village Amas in Gaya district, Bihar. It is farther noticed that due to disturbances of the apical bud it may happened. It is assumed that there are two possibilities for this formation where Bird must have come to take the ripen fruit as a food, during that period the leg of the bird may have angered the apical bud or when the local people use to climbed up for collection of

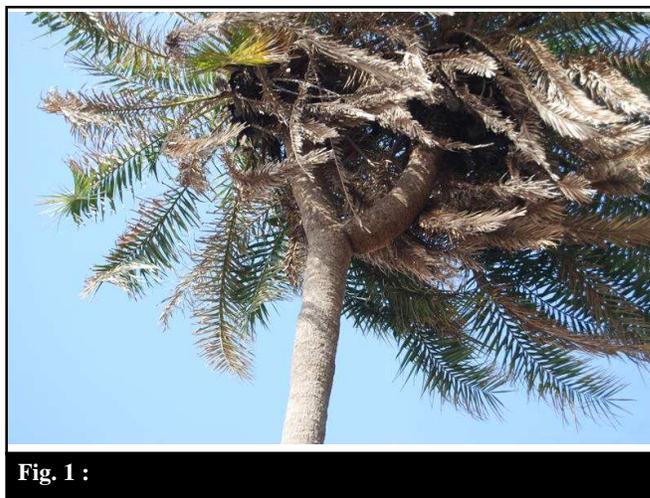


Fig. 1 :

‘Neera’ juice from stem, the apical bird may have damaged and because of that reason the apical bud divided and two branches have formed.

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