

Terminal branching in *Carrica papaya* L. from South Gujarat

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Papeeta is native of West Indies or Mexico and is now chiefly cultivated all over the world (Bailey, 1949). In India this is quite common. The fruits are eaten either fresh or cooked. It is characterized by the presence of a juice often milky. In Gujarat it is commonly observed growing cultivated in agricultural land. *Carrica papaya* L. has unbranched juicy stem, 10 – 14 feet in height, with a crown of simple leaves at the top.

During the course of the floristic studies of different localities of Kaparada taluka, Gujarat State, unusual tree of *Carrica papaya* L. was noticed on a hill at Panas Village. The plant showed presence of 11 terminal branches of more or less equal strength and vigour. Each branch terminated in a crown of leaves like the normal ones. Each branch was about five feet long and ten inch in diameter (Fig. 1).

As far as we could ascertain, from the available literature, no record of branching of *Carrica papaya* L. is reported from any locality in Gujarat.



Fig. 1 : Terminal branching in *Carrica papaya* L.

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