

PLANT - POLLINATOR AND PLANT – HERBIVORE INTERACTIONS - A COMPARATIVE STUDY IN TWO SPECIES OF *LUFFA*

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Abstract: Among various plant–animal interactions occurring around us, pollination and herbivory are prominent ones. While the former exemplifies a mutualistic relationship, the latter is reverse of it. Pollinators by their visits influence both quantity and quality of pollen reaching the surface of stigma [6] [13]. Herbivores on the other hand affect plant by impairing its foliage, deterring pollinators and cause loss of pollen and ovules [9] [5]. In order to analyze these relationships and their correlation with reproductive success, studies were conducted in two species of *Luffa* (family – Cucurbitaceae) namely *L. cylindrica* and *L. acutangula* growing in Jammu division of J&K state, India (area of study). Interestingly one among the two was found to be reproductively more efficient and less affected by herbivory.

Keyword: Pollinator, Herbivory, Mutualistic relationship, Reproductive efficiency

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