

Reproductive Biology of Lotus

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ABSTRACT

Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn.) is a plant, where its all parts are used in one way or other in various ayurvedic preparations. A thorough knowledge of floral biology was studied which will help in further crop improvement. Flower of lotus is complete. An additional whorl called transitional petal was observed in all accession except Bramangalam, which was aborted stamen. The process of anthesis in sacred lotus completed in three days. Lotus flowers are with fertile stamen and stigma but 100 per cent cross pollinated due to self incompatibility. Pollen grains were round, triporate and yellow in colour with reticulate sculpturing on the exine.

Key words :Cantharophilous, Protogyny, Transitional petals, Triporate pollen