

**Rohida (*Tecomella undulata*): The protector of desert biodiversity****<sup>1</sup>Jitendra Singh Ranawat and <sup>2</sup>Sunita Kumari**<sup>1</sup>Department of Forestry, CCS Haryana Agricultural University College of Agriculture Bawal, Haryana<sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar**ARTICLE ID: 058****Introduction**

*Tecomella undulata* (Rohida) is a slow growing medium size deciduous tree that belongs to the family bignoniaceae. It is ordinarily known “**Desert Teak**” or “**Marwar Teak**” or “**Honey tree**”. It is a medium sized attractive tree that has drooping branched, light green leaves that are usually opposite, 5-10 cm long, narrow and the orange-yellow concealing blooms give charming look. The attractive tree is effortlessly survived in the Thar Desert. It is especially acclimated to depleted loamy to sandy topsoil soil having pH 6.5-8.0. The species flourishes very well on offset sand rises, which experience ludicrous low and high temperatures. It fills in spaces of insufficient precipitation (yearly 150-500 mm). It can easily survive at low temperature (0°C to -2°C) during winter and high temperature (48°C to 50°C) in summers. The tree is a strong light demander. It is drought, ice, fire and wind extreme. At the hour of blossoming time from December to April, it produces wonderful flower in yellow, orange and red colour.



**Photos: Glimpse of Rohida tree (*Tecomella undulata*)**

**Distribution:** *Tecomella undulata* is mainly principally distributed in the Thar Desert and adjoining areas of the Thar Desert. This species is limited to grow only in semi-arid and arid areas of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. In Rajasthan, Rohida is found naturally in the district Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Pali, Ajmer, Jaipur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu, and Nagaur, etc. Before two-three decades, the populaces of Rohida trees were in wealth in the western Rajasthan however presently a – days *Tecomella undullata* tree is scarcely apparent and battling for presence because of unpredictable cutting from the most recent twenty years.

**Importance of Rohida tree in the Thar Desert of western Rajasthan:** Rohida is a unique gift given by the nature toward the western region of Rajasthan and connecting regions and creature world that spread orange-yellow colors from January to April on lackluster sand of the Thar Desert like a scene painting on drab material. Rohida has been declared as the state flower of Rajasthan on 31 October 1983. It is plays significant roles in desert ecosystem are as follows:

- It plays an important role in soil binding.
- To help in settling sand rises.

- To give shelters and food for flora and fauna.
- Its timber is utilized for making conventional wood things, furniture, huts, agricultural implements, bowls, and drums and so on
- Its flowers are used for worships of Gauri and Sankar on the occasion of Gangaur in Rajasthan.
- Traditional dyers have utilized its flowers to extract the Saffron shading color.
- The bark is customarily utilized for the treatment of different diseases like relieving urinary problems, spleen expansions, gonorrhoea, leucoderma, and liver illness.
- Some ancestral of western Rajasthan have used the squashed leaves to inhale the vapour to hack cough treatment.
- The glue of old stem-bark with vegetable oil is applied over dermatitis.
- Paste of seeds is used against sores and abscess.

**Future threats:** *Rohida* tree is beneficial for humans, flora, and fauna just as it is beneficial for the Thar Desert. However, from the last two decades, the number of *Rohida* trees has been diminished. The primary justification for the decrease in number of *Rohida* trees is the over doubling- dealing of agrarian land and urbanization that became significant danger for *Rohida* trees.

#### **Techniques to stop the declining Rohida tree populace:**

- Mindfulness among the ranchers to save and establish more trees on their fields
- Strengthening of research and development activities to develop fast growing varieties.
- To control insect pest (termite and stem borer) attacks.
- People groups begin planting rohida trees as a road planting and planting at public spots.
- Straightaway visit double-dealing of trees and begin planting at the town to city regions as a decorative plant or avenue plant.
- Value addition in its flowers as colour extraction (saffron colour dye).
- Peoples start planting of rohida tree as an avenue planting and planting at public places.
- Quickly stop over- exploitation of trees and start planting at village to city areas as ornamental plant