



## Short Communication

**Unifoliolate *Butea monosperma* conserved by local people**Karan G. Rana<sup>1\*</sup> and Padamnabhi S. Nagar<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>School of Science, Navrachana University, Vadodara – 391410, India.<sup>2</sup>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India.

**Abstract:** A natural mutant of *Butea monosperma* with unifoliolate leaves has been reported from Jamnagar in Gujarat. The tree is more than 90 years old, growing at an agricultural land and consecrated by the villagers with a local deity.

**Key words:** *Butea monosperma*, Unifoliolate leaves, Jamnagar

**Introduction**

*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. is an erect deciduous tree, characterized by its leaves which are pinnately 3-foliolate (Cooke, 1903). But, a natural mutant with unifoliolate leaves has been reported here (Figure 1A). The tree does not produce any flowers or fruits; it just develops small bracts and bracteoles (Figure 1C). It is considered to be sacred by the local people, popularly known as 'Ek-parni Khakhar', and hence been conserved there since last 90 years. People worship the tree as 'Ek-parni peer', and perform rituals under it by offering coconut, flags, incense sticks, etc. (Figure 1B). The tree is growing

on an agricultural land at Meghpar village (22°00'02.81"N, 69°52'40.30"E), Jamjodhpur taluka, Jamnagar district, Gujarat. Bharatbhai, present owner of the farm, states that even the agricultural farm has been registered as 'Ek-parni khetar' in the government registers.

There is a similar documentation of single leaved *Butea monosperma*, along the outskirts of the Bichore forest block, Singoli, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh (Shivapuri, 1917). People have recognized this phenomenon to be a manifestation of nature and thus consecrated the tree to the local deity.



Figure 1A: *Butea* with Unifoliolate Leaves; Figure 1B: Villagers worshipping tree

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**Figure 1C:** Bracts and Bracteoles

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