

Flowering in culm cuttings at nursery stage in *Bambusatulda* Roxb;**Kaushal, R.; Banik, R.L. and Tewari, S.****Research Note****FLOWERING IN CULM CUTTINGS AT NURSERY STAGE IN *BAMBUSA TULDA* ROXB.**

Bambusatulda commonly known as *Mirtinga* or jatibaans is an evergreen or deciduous, tufted, gregarious bamboo. In India the species is distributed in Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The species is also being cultivated in *tarai* region of U.P. and Uttarakhand and occupies a prime position in the local economy, ecology and society of Boksas and Tharu tribes and Bengali communities. *B.tulda* flowers both sporadic and gregariously with the 30-50 years of flowering cycle. Precocious flowering with viable seeding was also observed at the seedling stage (18-month age) of this species (Banik 1980).

In the vegetative propagation study, 3 year old culms were harvested on 19 April 2007 in Motipur ward No 2, Dineshpurblock of District U.S. Nagar, Uttarakhand located at 29° 03' 42" N, 79° 19' 92" E at an altitude of 660 ft; and these culms were transported to the nursery, Agroforestry Research centre of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar immediately. The culms were cut into 3-noded segments and treated with 500 ppm IBA and placed horizontally in the sand media propagation beds in the month of July. Misting facility was provided to the cuttings. Sprouting was observed in 60 per cent cuttings within 10 days and produced roots adequately within 40-55 days. Interestingly in two culm cuttings flowering was observed after 30 days—and these also produced root. All the culm cuttings were transferred to polythene bags in hardening chamber. The flowered cutting however could not survive. This could be due to loss of vigour on creation of sinks for flowers. On further investigation, it was observed that the mother clump has also flowered in Motipur. Similar to the present report, earlier during 1979 a 10 ha experimental plantation of *B. tulda* was raised in Lawachara Silvicultural Research Station through planting of rhizomes and cuttings collected from Adampur forest area of Sylhet, Bangladesh. All the planted propagules flowered and died in 1980 synchronous with their mother clumps at Adampur (Banik 1994). Flowering in branch cuttings was also reported by Kumar *et al.* (1990) in *B. tulda* and *Sinarundinaria falcatata* by Bakshi and Razvi (2011). Vegetative propagation is commonly practised in bamboo cultivation. However, the plants developed from vegetative