

# Floral Phenology vs. Reproductive Efficiency – A Comparative Study in Three Species of Cucurbits

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**Abstract**—*Floral phenology plays an important role in determining the reproductive efficiency of a plant species. Many studies on floral phenology reveal that the time of flowering determines the role of interactions between plant-pollinator, plant-predator and pollinator-predator in influencing the reproductive success of a species (Fenner, 1998; Pico & Retana, 2000; Galloway & Burgess, 2012). In order to analyze these relationships and the correlation of floral phenology with reproductive success, studies were conducted on three species of cucurbits namely Luffa cylindrica, Luffa acutangula and Trichosanthes cucumerina growing in Jammu division of J&K state, India. Interestingly one among the three was found to be reproductively more efficient in terms of percentage fruit and seed set. The presentation will elaborate in detail on this phenomenon.*

**Keywords:** *Floral phenology, reproductive success, pollinator, predator.*