

Pollination Biology of *Centellaasiatica*(L.) Urban; Anautogamous Umbellifer

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Abstract—*Apiaceae*, also known as *umbelliferae* is characterized by its unique inflorescence; the umbel an aggregation of flowers giving a high visual impact. Because of this impact, umbels are known to attract a variety of insects rendering most of these taxa entomophilous. Most of the species in the family are thus characterized by large sized umbels aggregating several flowers together. A unique sub group in this family comprises of taxa with small and inconspicuous umbels not vivid to naked eyes. *Centellaasiatica*(L.) Urban, a medicinally important herb is a part of this assemblage. Contrary to most of members of family, it bears simple and small umbels comprising of 3-6 flowers only. Events of floral biology depict the species to be weakly protandrous; however a considerable overlap between staminate and pistillate phases ensure autogamy. The species falls under “*facultative Xenogamy*” category with pollen-ovule ratio of 778.1:1. Umbels are briskly visited by ants of Genus *Camponotus*. Our pollination experiments reveal them to be active pollinators which aid in geitonogamy, in case autogamy fails.