

Review of: "An Ecological Study of *Alstonia Venenata* R.Br. (Apocynaceae: Rauvolfioideae) and *Cryptolepis Buchanani* R.Br. Ex Roem. & Schult. (Apocynaceae: Periplocoideae)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article provides a detailed ecological study of two plant species, *Alstonia venenata* and *Cryptolepis buchanani*, both belonging to the Apocynaceae family. The study covers various aspects of the plants' flowering, pollination, fruiting, and seed dispersal mechanisms. The observations and discussion section is extensive and provides a comprehensive analysis of the findings. The detailed description of the floral characteristics and reproductive mechanisms for each species, along with the comparison to previous studies on related species, strengthens the study. The inclusion of figures to illustrate the plant species and their flowers is helpful for the reader's understanding. The conclusions concisely summarize the key findings of the study, highlighting the differences in the reproductive strategies of the two plant species. The references cited are relevant and up-to-date, providing a good foundation for the study.

The study would have been strengthened by including more quantitative data, such as the number of flowers observed, visitation rates by different pollinators, and fruit set percentages. This would have provided more robust support for the conclusions drawn.

The discussion section could be more concise in some places, as it tends to be quite lengthy in parts. There is an opportunity to streamline the writing and focus more on the key findings and their implications. The authors mention that observations on foraging activity of flower visitors were confined to *A. venenata*, but not for *C. buchanani*. Explaining the reasons for this discrepancy in the methodology would have been helpful. The study would have benefited from a more in-depth comparison of the reproductive strategies of the two species, highlighting the specific adaptations and tradeoffs that enable them to succeed in their respective environments. While the authors state that detailed studies are needed to understand the reproductive ecology of these species, especially during the flowering season when flower-foragers are scarce, they do not provide any clear recommendations for future research directions. This could have strengthened the impact of the study. The language used in some parts of the manuscript could be more precise and concise, as there are instances of wordy or repetitive phrasing that could be improved. The study would have been strengthened by including a brief discussion on the potential conservation implications of the findings, given the traditional medicinal uses of these plant species.

