



International Journal of Allied Practice, Research and Review

Website: www.ijaprr.com (ISSN 2350-1294)

A Short Note on Food Preference of Parakeet *Psittacula Krameri* as Observed in A House Garden at Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

Meera Srivastava
Department of Zoology, Government Dungar College,
Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

The rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), also known as the ring-necked parakeet, a medium-sized parrot belongs to the genus *Psittacula*, of the family Psittacidae. It is sexually dimorphic. The adult male has a red and black neck ring, and the female and immature birds of both sexes either show no neck rings, or display shadow-like pale to dark grey neck rings. They are a herbivorous in feeding habit. In the wild, rose-ringed parakeets usually feed on buds, fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries, and seeds. Wild flocks also fly several miles to forage in farmlands and orchards, causing extensive damage. In India, they feed on cereal grains, and during winter also on pigeon peas. In captivity, rose-ringed parakeets will take a large variety of food and can be fed on a number of fruits, vegetables, pellets, seeds, and even small amounts of cooked meat for protein.

Moringa oleifera Lam. commonly known as horse-radish or drumstick tree belongs to family Moringaceae. It is a deciduous tree and is one of the 14 species of genus *Moringa*, which is native to India, Africa, Arabia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Caribbean islands, and South America. The flowers and the fruits appear twice each year. Almost all the parts of *M. oleifera* are used for various ailments in the indigenous medicine of South Asia, including the treatment of diabetes, hypertension, inflammation and infectious diseases. Its leaves, pods and flowers are generally consumed for nourishment.

The present observations were taken in a house garden situated in the city of Bikaner (28°N latitude and 73°18'E longitudes), Rajasthan, India. The observations were made in the last fortnight of February 2019. The parakeet *P. krameri* were observed to sit on the tree and eat the flowers of *M. oleifera* with great liking (Plates 1 & 2). Phytochemical analysis of extract has shown the presence of major classes

of phytochemicals such as tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, cardiac glycosides *etc.* *M. oleifera* flowers were found to contain 19.31 mg/g of gallic acid equivalent of total phenolics in dry extract but exhibited moderate antioxidant activity. The anti-inflammatory activity of plant extract was significant and comparable with the standard drug diclofenac sodium (Alhakmani et al. 2013).

It could therefore be suggested that as flowers of *M. oleifera* possess potent anti-inflammatory activity and are also a good source of natural antioxidants, it is quite possible that there could be some natural mechanism in this bird of identifying the medicinal properties in the flowers and therefore being consumed. Long term studies are further required in this regard.

Reference

Alhakmani, Fatma, Kumar Sokindra and Khan Shah Alam. Estimation of total phenolic content, *in vitro* antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity of flowers of *Moringa oleifera*. *Asian Pac. J. Trop. Biomed.* 3(8):623-627.



Plate 1. Parakeet *P. krameri* sitting on the tree of *Moringa*



Plate 2. Parakeet *P. krameri* eating the flowers of *Moringa*