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Class : Deg. II (Hons.)

Paper : III (Group-B)

Topic : Family - Apocynaceae (Continued)

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Family : Apocynaceae (Continued)

Affinities of family Apocynaceae :

The family Apocynaceae is closely related to Asclepiadaceae and has been placed with it by taxonomists. Hallier included the Asclepiadaceae with the Apocynaceae and derived them from the Linaceae.

Bessey accepted the two families as distinct and treated both in his Gentianales.

Hutchinson placed the family in his order Apocynales and considered it to be derived from stock ancestral to Loganiaceae.

Economic Importance of family Apocynaceae :

• Vegetables :

The pulpy fruits of Cassia Carandus (H. Karanda) are edible and also pickled.

• Medicinal :

The root of Rauwolfia serpentina (H. Sarpagandha)

are used in lowering blood pressure, sedative, stimulator for uterine contraction and in mental diseases.

The bark of Alstonia scholaris is a febrifuge.

#### • Rubber:

Many species of Hancoria, Dyera, Urceola are the sources of rubber.

#### • Ornamental:

Nerium, Catharanthus (syn. Vinca), Thevetia, Wrightia, Allamanda are cultivated in gardens as ornamentals.

#### Common plants of the Family:

(i) Nerium indicum (H. Kaner): cultivated in gardens for ornamental purposes, evergreen shrub.

(ii) Cassia carandus (H. Karanda):

spiny shrub, fruits are used as vegetable and pickles.

(iii) Catharanthus roseus (H. Sadabahar):

Small evergreen herb.

(iv) Rauwolfia serpentina (H. Sarpghandha)

Found in sub-Himalayan tracts. The roots of this plant are hypohypnotic, sedative and reduces blood pressure.

(v) Plumeria alba: Ornamental tree with pleasant smell

(vi) Bauhinia multiflora

(vii) Thevetia peruviana

(complete)