

Genetic variability of *chakkarakolli* (*Gymnema sylvestre* R. Br.) in Kerala assessed using morphological and biochemical markers

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Abstract

Gymnema sylvestre R. Br. is a native medicinal plant valued for its antidiabetic property. The major bioactive constituents of *Gymnema* are a group of saponins. In the present study, morphological and biochemical markers were employed for characterizing 93 germplasm accessions of *Gymnema* representing different geographical regions of Kerala. Seven vegetative traits and total saponin concentrations in the leaves were studied on three-year-old plants. The results indicate high variations in morphological and biochemical characters. Saponin concentration ranged from 0.6% for 'Pambadi' to 5.4% for 'Kottayi'.

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