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Authors: Sushil Kumar Chourey (/browse?type=author&value=Sushil+Kumar+Chourey)

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Abstract: A total of 96 named landraces of brinjal (Solanum melongena L.) collected between 1985 and 2012 and conserved at Indian National Gene Bank, NBPGR, New Delhi, were analysed for molecular genetic variation at 24 SSR (Simple Sequence Repeats) loci. Number of alleles per locus ranged from one to three and seven polymorphic markers generated a total of 18 alleles. The polymorphic information content (PIC) of the loci ranged from 0.27 to 0.54. Based on these variations, 96 brinjal landraces exhibited a fairly high (0.885) average pairwise similarity and modest values of average expected heterozygosity (0.04) and gene diversity (0.13). A low genetic differentiation ($F_{st} = 0.21$) pointed towards a continuum of variation among landraces belonging to different geographic regions. The polymorphic markers could differentiate most of the landraces. Employing more number of SSR markers and linking with morphological and agronomical data would be useful in conservation and utilization of brinjal landraces.

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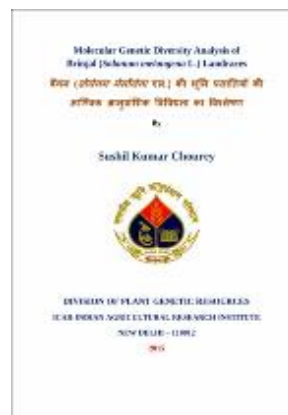
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