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Title: COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF KALMEGH (*Andrographis paniculata* Burm.f. Nees) GERMPLASM OF JHARKHAND WITH RELEASED VARIETY JK1.

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Abstract: *Andrographis paniculata* belongs to family Acanthaceae is a most potential medicinal plant in Jharkhand. Although it grows throughout country from Assam and Himachal Pradesh and to all over south India including abundant population in deccan plateau and gangatic plains. It is widely used in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and other systems of medicines. Whole plant is used in drug (stem, leaves and inflorescence). Kalmegh is used in the treatment of fevers, to expel intestinal worms and dysentery and is also useful for children suffering from liver and digestive complaints. In Jharkhand people mostly used as blood purifier. Recently experiments have shown its anti typhoid and antibiotic activity (Purohit & Vyas, 2005). The plant is also reported to possess pharmacological action like anti-hepatotoxic, antibiotic, antimalarial, anti thrombogenic, anti-inflammatory, anti snake venom, and antipyretic properties. It is abundantly found in waste land as well in forest ranges in Jharkhand. Keeping this in view, a field experiment was carried out at faculty of forestry Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi to study the "Comparative evaluation of kalmegh *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f) Nees Germplasm of Jharkhand with released variety JK1". The soil was sandy loam in texture, slightly acidic in nature (6.28 pH) having organic carbon (0.43%), available nitrogen (210 kg/ha), phosphorus (8.54 kg/ha), potassium (215 kg/ha). The treatment consisted of 4 levels of germplasm (3 three wild germplasm and 1 released variety i.e. JK1) were evaluated in Randomised Block Design with 5 replications. Results revealed that the indigenous wild variety collected from the agroclimatic sub zone V of Jharkhand has significantly higher vegetative growth characters namely plant height (72.97cm), leaf length (4.89 cm), leaf breadth (1.9 cm) Fresh weight(61.90), dry weight (20.60) and the principle chemical constituent that is and rographolide (%) of wild variety collected from Jharkhand shows significantly superior over the released variety viz. 5.2(%), 4.8(%), 3.2(%) as compared to the released variety JK1 which has reported only 1.70 (%). Thus on the basis of the result can be concluded that wild variety of Jharkhand which is the indigenous variety has well suited with the edaphic and climatic condition of Jharkhand and has the higher potential. Thus it could fetch the more commercial importance to the pharmaceutical industries as compared to the JK1 variety in the local climatic condition. So farmers should given the more emphasis on the cultivation of local cultivar over the released variety.

Description: COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF KALMEGH (*Andrographis paniculata* Burm.f. Nees) GERMPASM OF JHARKHAND WITH RELEASED VARIETY JK1.

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