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Screening of African marigold (*Tagetes erecta* L.) for novelty

■ T. USHA BHARATHI, M. JAWAHARLAL¹, M. KANNAN¹, N. MANIVANNAN² AND M. RAVEENDRAN³

Members of the Research Forum

Associated Authors:

¹Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA

²Department of Pulses, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA

³Department of Biotechnology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA

Author for correspondence :

T. USHA BHARATHI
Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA
Email : t.ushabharathi@gmail.com

ABSTRACT : An investigation was carried out to screen the African marigold genotypes for novel characters such as different flower form, colour intensity, flower compactness, plant stature and presence of gynomonoecious sex form. Among the 28 African marigold genotypes one pure double, ten semi double, one single flower form and sixteen mixture of double, semi double and single flower forms were noticed. Among the genotypes, flower colour intensity of marigold genotypes varied from yellow, greenish yellow, yellow orange and orange. Siracole produced highly firm, compact, round flowers with high score of 5.00 followed by Double Orange while least flower compactness and loose flower head was recorded in Sathy Local Orange. Plant stature was classified into three categories and among the 28 genotypes one dwarf, eleven semi tall and sixteen tall genotypes were recorded. The variation in plant stature is due to the inherent genetic character. Gynomonoecy is the sexual system in which individual plants bear both female and bisexual flowers was noticed in the genotype Siracole. Wide variation and novelty noticed in the African marigold germplasm may be utilized for further improvement programmes.

KEY WORDS : African marigold, Flower form, Compactness, Plant stature, Gynomonoecious

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