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Diversity for kernel colour in the natural population of walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) in the Kashmir valley

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation on diversity for kernel colour in the natural population of walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) in the Kashmir valley was carried out in order to document the available genetic variability in walnut germplasm and to select elite walnut genotypes possessing superior attributes and quality traits. During the survey, data was recorded on one hundred fifty two (152) walnut trees growing in different areas of Kashmir valley. Remarkable variability was observed in seedling walnut trees for different morphological, nut and kernel characters. Similarly, variations were also reported for other characters viz., tree vigour, growth habit, branching habit, leaflet shape, shoot colour, nut shape, shell texture, shell colour, shell seal, shell strength, shell integrity, kernel shrivel and kernel colour. Kernel colour in the present study varied from extra light to amber. Twenty four genotypes (15.79%) were having extra light coloured kernels; 100 genotypes (65.79%) were found to have light coloured kernels; 18 genotypes (11.85%) had light amber coloured kernels and remaining 10 genotypes (6.57%) had amber kernel colour.

KEY WORDS : Walnut, Variability, Kernel colour

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