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Variability and physico-chemical studies in snap melon (*Cucumis melo* var. momordica)

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ABSTRACT : The resent investigation was carried out in the DAPS (Horticulture), Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow for periodical evaluation of various physico-chemical parameters *viz.*, length of fruits (cm), diameter of fruits (cm), size of fruits (cm), weight of fruits (kg), colour of skin/rind of fruit, weight of seeds/fruit, shape of fruits, colour of flesh, total soluble solid (TSS), acidity (percentage), compactness of fruits, aroma of fruits and taste of fruits. The genotypes of Snap melon *i.e.* Local-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were designated as V_1, V_2, V_3 V_4, V_5, V_6 V_7, V_8, V_9 and V_{10}, respectively during the investigation. In each treatment/genotype, two-ten fruits were randomly selected for recording the observations on various parameters. Genotype V_5 had maximum fruit length (27 cm) whereas, V6 had highest fruit diameter (24cm), fruit size (600cm), weight (3kg), seeds weight (23kg), TSS content (50 Brix) and acidity content (6.8%). The minimum fruit length was recorded in genotypes V_7 (12cm) whereas, minimum fruit diameter and fruit size was recorded in genotype V_9 (8cm and 112 cm, respectively). The minimum fruit weight was recorded in V_2 (0.90 kg). Minimum seed weight was recorded in genotype V_2 (4.0 g). Lowest TSS was observed in V_5 (40 Brix) while, minimum acidity in V_5 (3.5%). Snap melon Local-1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 were found compact in nature whereas, Local-3 and 10 were found less compact. Melon Local-1 and 8 had banana like aroma rather than snap melon Local-2 and 5 having light banana like aroma. The study evaluated that snap melon Local-1, 2, 8 and 10 have acidic taste whereas, snap melon Local-3, 4, 6 and 9 have sweet taste. Genotypes snap melon Local-5 and 7 found tasteless. The overall studied suggested that genotype V_6 performed better for its bigger size fruits with good aroma and taste.

KEY WORDS : Snap melon, Fruits characters, Cucumis melo

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