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SOUVENIR

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Compiled and Edited by:

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, BAU Ranchi

DR. SHREE PRASAD VISTA
Director, Mountain Agriculture Research Institute, Jumla, Nepal Agricultural Research Council
General Secretary, Nepalese Society of Soil Science, Kathmandu, Nepal

ASHOK KUMAR
KVK, Garhwa (BAU, RANCHI)

VARSHA RANI
Dept. Of Crop Physiology, (BAU, RANCHI)

Dr. P.K. Upadhyay
Head, Dept. of Genetics & Plant Breeding R.B.S College (Dr. B.R. Univ.), Agra, India

MAYA KUMARI
KVK, Sahibganj (BAU Ranchi)

MADHUKAR KUMAR
KVK Giridih (BAU RANCHI)

MR. PUJAN DHAKAL
Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal

MR. VIVEK BIST
Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal

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**Theme 1 : Breeding and Biotechnological innovations**

Optimization of genomic DNA isolation protocol from emergingleaves of small cardamom *Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton for genetic diversity analysis

Ashokkumar K*, Dhanya M.K., Murugan M., Haritha K.V., Surya R., Nimisha M and Amal S
Cardamom Research Station, Kerala Agricultural University, Pampadumpara, Idukki, Kerala.
* Corresponding author email: biotech.ashok@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

*Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton popularly known as Indian cardamom or small cardamom is mostly cultivated in the Southern Western Ghats (SWG) at higher altitudes ranging from 900 to 1400 m.s.l.DNA isolation in small cardamom leaves have various difficulties as their DNA is highly viscous due to the presence of proteins, polysaccharides and polyphenols. Therefore, present study aimed to develop a rapid DNA isolation and PCR amplification protocol from the cardamom leaves (just emerged to unfold). In this study, we report a simple but rapid protocol for the isolation of DNA by CTAB extraction method, in which combined application strategy of 2-mercapto ethanol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), sodium metabisulphate and NaCl(0.5M) was devised and used for removing polyphenols and polysaccharides. Also, ammonium acetate (7.5M) used to remove the DNA bounded cellular and histone proteins. This procedure is highly suitable for emerging leaf tissues from which an excellent quality of genomic DNA was achieved with high yield as well as free from contamination and development of brownish yellow colour. Current protocol yields pure DNA as documented from bio-spectrophotometer readings, where the A260/A280 ratio was 1.6-1.9, indicating the absence of contaminants. In 0.8% agarose gels, the DNA forms a thick intact single band of high molecular weight confirming good quality. The DNA yield from emerging leaves of 15 promising cardamom accessions ranged from 100-155µg/µl. In addition to that, our results emphasized that this procedure can be suitable to detect the genetic variability through molecular marker amplification. The isolated DNA has been successfully used for genetic diversity analysis of small cardamom using different inter simple sequence repeats (ISSR) markers.

**Keywords:** Cardamom, DNA isolation, PCR, ISSR markers, Diversity analysis.