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Assessment of Wild Brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) Genotypes of North-Eastern Region

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ABSTRACT

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Wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes were collected from different parts of North eastern region of India and evaluated to study the variability in vegetative, fruit yield and quality characters at research farm of department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, India during 2015 to 2016. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with 15 genotypes and 3 replications. The results showed that the genotypes exhibited marked variation in growth, fruiting characteristics and biochemical components. Among all the genotypes, fruit weight (27.86 g), total carbohydrate (375.78 mg/100 g), ascorbic acid content (16.73 mg/100 g), total alkaloid (4.68 mg/100 g) was found highest in CHFG-4. CHFG-5 had highest number of fruits per plant (93.66), fruit yield per plant (1.97 kg), total phenol (15.27 mg/100 g). Hence, for fruit yield and quality characteristics, the genotypes CHFG-4 and CHFG-5 were best suited for cultivation in different parts of NEH region.

Introduction

Solanum gilo is commonly known as bitter brinjal. It is an important indigenous leaf and fruit vegetable in tropical Africa; cultivated and consumed largely in Africa (Sunseri *et al.*, 2010). It is important for production in marginal areas and for the genetic improvement of *S. melongena* (Toppino *et al.*, 2008). It is a self-pollinating crop, although some outcrossing of upto 30% is possible. Wide variations exists within and between the species including variation in characters like diameter of corolla, petiole length, leaf blade width, plant branching, fruit shape and color (Chinedu *et al.*, 2011). The fruits are round, the top and bottom are flattened out and have

grooved portions with a length of 5-6 cm and a width of 6-7 cm. It has very tiny seeds and its stalk is curved or erect (Knapp, 2011). This species of garden egg have bitter tastes and is cultivated in the same way with other species. The fruit turn red or orange in color when ripened.

Their uses in indigenous medicine range from weight reduction to treatment of several ailments including asthma, allergic rhinitis, nasal catarrh, skin infections, rheumatic disease and swollen joint pains, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, constipation, dyspepsia (Bello *et al.*, 2005). Its fruits

possess analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-asthmatic, anti-glaucoma, hypoglycaemic, hypolipidemic properties (Odetola *et al.*, 2004). These pharmacological properties have been attributed to the presence of certain chemical substances in the plants, such as fiber, ascorbic acid, phenols, anthocyanin, glycoalkaloids and α -chaconine (Sanchez-Mata *et al.*, 2010).

Although bitter brinjal is cultivated in all the state of North eastern region of India but there is no improved variety that can be recommended to the farmers for its commercial cultivation in the region. Therefore, studies were conducted to find out variation in physicochemical characters of 15 genotypes of wild brinjal and to achieve superior cultivar with satisfactory yield along with good fruit quality under the condition of North eastern region.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials

Fifteen wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes were collected from different part of the North eastern region of India and cultivated at research farm of department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, India during 2015 to 2016.

The list of genotypes along with their sources and morphological traits is given in (Table 1).

The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with 15 genotypes and 3 replications. The field was ploughed and made to a fine tilth. Five weeks old seedlings were transplanted in raised beds in rows spaced at 45 cm with plant-to-plant spacing of 45 cm.

Quantitative characters

Data were recorded on five randomly selected plants of each genotype from each replication and the average was worked out in each replication for different traits. Plant height was recorded when in 50% of the plants the first fruit has attained mature stage and it was measured from the base to the highest tip of the plant, days to first flowering was recorded when the number of days required from transplanting until 50% of plants has at least one open flower, days to first fruit set was studied when the number of days from transplanting until 50% of plants has at least fruit set, days to first harvesting was recorded when the number of days to first harvest was counted from date of transplanting of seedling to the date of first harvesting, average fruit girth of 5 mature fruits were measured by using a digital Vernier caliper at the middle of the fruit and expressed in cm, average fruit length of 5 mature fruits of the second harvest was measured from stalk to the bottom end by using a digital Vernier caliper and expressed in cm, the total number of fruits harvested from all pickings of individual plant weighed and the average fruit weight worked out by dividing total weight of fruits from all the pickings with total number of fruits from all pickings and expressed in gram (g), total number of fruits harvested from all pickings of individual plant was counted and summed up to get total number of fruits per plant, the fruit from each picking was recorded from 5 labeled plants of each genotype and total fruit per plant was worked out by adding the yield of all the harvest.

Biochemical components

The biochemical component of fruits from each genotypes of each replication was worked out and observations were recorded. Total carbohydrate content was determined by the method described by Hedge and Hofreiter

(1962). A standard graph was drawn by plotting concentration of the standard on the X-axis *versus* absorbance on the Y-axis. From the graph the amount of carbohydrate present in the sample was calculated. The total phenol content was determined by the method described by Malick and Singh (1980). The concentration of phenols in the test sample was calculated from the standard curve and expressed as mg phenols/100 g material. The ascorbic acid content was determined by the method described by Jagota and Dani (1982). The concentration of ascorbic acid in the sample was calculated from the slope of the ascorbic acid standard curve. Total alkaloid content was determined by the method described by Vijay and Rajendra (2014). The absorbance for test and standard solutions were determined against the reagent blank at 470 nm with an UV/Visible spectrophotometer. The total alkaloid content was expressed as mg /100g of extract. Steroid content was determined by the method described by Jaroslav and Maurice (1979). The absorbance for sample was determined against the reagent blank at 470 nm with an UV/Visible spectrophotometer. Steroid content was expressed as µg. Flavonoid content was determined by the method described by Vijay and Rajendra (2014). The absorbance for test and standard solutions were determined against the reagent blank at 510 nm with an UV/Visible spectrophotometer. The total flavonoid content was expressed as mg /100g of extract. Protein content was estimated by the method described by Lowry *et al.*, (1951). Reading was taken at 660 nm and the amount of protein in the sample was calculated from a standard curve and expressed as mg protein/100 g sample.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis of the data was carried out by the method of analysis of variance as outlined by (Gomez and Gomez, 1983).

Result and Discussion

Quantitative characters

The data obtained on quantitative characters of wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) revealed significant differences among different genotypes during both the years of study Table 2(a) and 2(b). The pooled data of consecutive two years has shown that maximum plant height was recorded in CHFG-12 (63.18) which was statistically at par with CHFG-14 (61.75), CHFG-10 (61.74), CHFG-9 (61.50) and CHFG-15 (57.85). Minimum plant height was recorded in CHFG-5 (45.91). The present findings are in agreement with Hassan *et al.*, (2015) and Kumar and Arumugam (2013) in brinjal. Minimum numbers of days to first flowering (50%) was reported in CHFG-2 (58.0) which was statistically at par with CHFG-11 (59.66) while maximum days was recorded in CHFG-13 (74.16). Similar results were obtained in brinjal by Yadav *et al.*, (2014). The pooled data has shown that minimum number of days to first fruit set was observed in CHFG-2 (69.84) which was statistically at par with CHFG-11 (71.66) while maximum number of days to first fruit set was observed in CHFG-13 (85.50). The genotypes having lower days to harvesting can be exploited for earliness in yield. Minimum number of days to first harvesting was recorded in CHFG-2 (82.84) which was statistically at par with CHFG-11 (84.66) while maximum number of days was recorded in CHFG-13 (98.50). Similar results of a significant varietal difference in brinjal were obtained by Singh and Kumar (2005). Maximum fruit girth was observed in CHFG-1 (4.53) which was statistically at par with CHFG-3 (4.48), CHFG-9 (4.44), CHFG-4 (4.41), CHFG-12 (4.37), CHFG-11 (4.31), CHFG-2 (4.30) and CHFG-7 (4.25) while CHFG-6 (2.62) had minimum girth. Maximum fruit length was recorded in CHFG-15 (2.97) while it was minimum in CHFG-8 (2.38).

Table.1 List of wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes with their source and morphological traits

Genotype	Source	Leaf blade width	Leaf blade lobing	Fruit colour	Fruit shape	Fruiting habit
CHFG-1	A landrace of Lawngtlai, Mizoram	Wide	Intermediate	Light green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-2	A land race of Khawzawl, Mizoram	Intermediate	Strong	White	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-3	A landrace of Sialsuk, Mizoram	Intermediate	Strong	Purple	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-4	A landrace of Keifang, Mizoram	Wide	Intermediate	Dark green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-5	A landrace of Balek, Arunachal Pradesh	Intermediate	Strong	Green	About 3/4 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-6	A landrace of Yang yang, East Sikkim	Wide	Intermediate	Light green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-7	A landrace of Mizoram	Wide	Intermediate	Light green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-8	A landrace of Ledum, Arunachal Pradesh	Intermediate	Strong	Green	About 3/4 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-9	A landrace of Nagaland	Wide	Strong	Dark green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-10	A landrace of Churachandpur, Manipur	Intermediate	Intermediate	Purple	About 3/4 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-11	A landrace of Mizoram	Intermediate	Strong	White	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-12	A landrace of Mizoram	Wide	Intermediate	Blackish green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary
CHFG-13	A landrace of Aalo, West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh	Wide	Intermediate	Light green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-14	A landrace of Shillong, Meghalaya	Intermediate	Intermediate	Green	About 3/4 way from base to tip	Cluster
CHFG-15	A landrace of East Lungdar, Mizoram	Intermediate	Intermediate	Green	About 1/2 way from base to tip	Cluster and solitary

Table.2 (a) Vegetative characteristics of different wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes

S.N.	Genotype	Plant height (cm)			Days to 1 st flowering (50%)			Days to 1 st fruit set (50%)			Days to 1 st harvesting		
		15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool
1.	CHFG-1	49.91	51.16	50.54	68.34	67.00	67.66	79.34	77.00	78.16	89.00	88.67	88.84
2.	CHFG-2	55.67	57.26	56.46	58.34	57.67	58.00	70.67	69.00	69.84	83.67	82.00	82.84
3.	CHFG-3	50.5	52.25	51.37	62.67	63.34	63.00	74.34	73.67	74.00	87.67	87.00	87.34
4.	CHFG-4	53.83	55.30	54.56	67.67	66.00	66.84	78.00	77.67	77.84	90.67	90.34	90.50
5.	CHFG-5	45.34	46.50	45.91	63.67	62.34	63.00	75.34	73.67	74.50	86.34	86.00	86.16
6.	CHFG-6	49.00	50.50	49.75	73.34	72.00	72.66	84.00	83.67	83.84	97.34	96.00	96.66
7.	CHFG-7	52.24	53.41	52.82	69.34	68.66	69.00	80.67	79.67	80.16	92.67	92.34	92.50
8.	CHFG-8	51.83	53.06	52.45	67.34	66.00	66.66	78.34	77.34	77.84	91.34	91.00	91.16
9.	CHFG-9	60.75	62.26	61.50	67.66	67.00	67.34	78.67	77.00	77.84	92.34	91.67	92.00
10.	CHFG-10	61.30	61.96	61.74	65.67	65.34	65.50	76.67	76.34	76.50	89.67	89.34	89.50
11.	CHFG-11	46.50	47.94	47.21	60.34	59.00	59.66	72.00	71.34	71.66	85.00	84.34	84.66
12.	CHFG-12	62.16	64.20	63.18	69.00	68.34	68.84	80.67	79.67	80.16	94.34	93.00	93.66
13.	CHFG-13	48.13	48.78	48.45	75.34	73.00	74.16	86.34	84.67	85.50	99.34	97.67	98.50
14.	CHFG-14	61.50	62.00	61.75	72.67	71.00	71.84	83.00	82.34	82.66	96.67	95.34	96.00
15.	CHFG-15	57.00	58.70	57.85	64.67	64.00	64.34	75.67	75.34	75.50	91.67	89.67	91.34
	Mean	54.22	55.02	54.37	66.97	66.04	66.56	78.23	77.24	77.74	91.17	90.38	90.77
	CV %	6.08	5.80	5.47	4.01	3.93	3.67	3.35	3.34	3.09	2.89	2.59	2.49
	SEm±	1.89	1.83	1.21	1.54	1.50	0.99	1.50	1.49	0.98	1.52	1.35	0.92
	CD or LSD (5%)	5.50	5.30	3.42	4.48	4.36	2.81	4.37	4.33	2.76	4.40	3.92	2.61

Table.2 (b) Fruit yield and quality characteristics of different wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes

S.N.	Genotype	Fruit girth (cm)			Fruit length (cm)			Fruit weight (g)			Number of fruits per plant			Fruit yield per plant (kg)		
		15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool	15-16	16-17	pool
1.	CHFG-1	4.47	4.58	4.53	2.82	2.86	2.84	26.84	27.90	27.37	69.00	70.67	69.84	1.89	1.92	1.90
2.	CHFG-2	4.27	4.32	4.30	2.72	2.75	2.74	25.54	25.06	24.80	74.67	75.34	75.0	1.83	1.87	1.85
3.	CHFG-3	4.42	4.54	4.48	2.79	2.82	2.81	25.87	26.91	26.39	68.67	70.00	69.34	1.61	1.64	1.64
4.	CHFG-4	4.35	4.47	4.41	2.80	2.85	2.83	27.11	27.54	27.32	71.34	72.00	71.66	1.91	1.97	1.95
5.	CHFG-5	2.91	2.99	2.95	2.40	2.43	2.42	20.64	21.54	21.08	93.00	94.34	93.66	1.93	2.03	1.97
6.	CHFG-6	2.58	2.65	2.62	2.38	2.39	2.39	16.57	16.84	16.70	65.34	66.00	65.67	0.75	0.86	0.81
7.	CHFG-7	4.24	4.25	4.25	2.83	2.88	2.85	26.16	27.06	26.61	69.67	70.67	70.16	1.71	1.80	1.75
8.	CHFG-8	2.79	2.84	2.82	2.35	2.41	2.38	20.08	21.42	20.75	89.67	91.00	90.34	1.78	1.91	1.82
9.	CHFG-9	4.39	4.50	4.44	2.78	2.81	2.79	26.06	27.30	26.68	70.00	70.34	70.16	1.72	1.81	1.76
10.	CHFG-10	2.83	2.86	2.85	2.46	2.50	2.48	17.25	18.32	17.79	73.00	73.67	73.34	1.25	1.34	1.30
11.	CHFG-11	4.29	4.34	4.31	2.61	2.69	2.65	24.00	25.26	24.63	76.34	77.00	76.67	1.83	1.93	1.88
12.	CHFG-12	4.31	4.42	4.37	2.83	2.84	2.84	23.78	24.85	24.31	60.67	61.34	61.0	1.43	1.52	1.47
13.	CHFG-13	2.72	2.76	2.74	2.42	2.44	2.43	17.45	18.72	18.08	85.34	86.00	85.66	1.48	1.60	1.54
14.	CHFG-14	2.89	2.93	2.91	2.41	2.42	2.41	18.38	19.44	18.91	66.67	67.34	67.0	1.12	1.20	1.26
15.	CHFG-15	2.64	2.69	2.67	2.95	2.99	2.97	21.36	21.85	21.60	64.34	65.00	64.66	1.37	1.41	1.39
	Mean	3.61	3.68	3.64	2.64	2.67	2.65	22.40	23.33	22.87	73.17	74.05	73.61	1.63	1.71	1.62
	CV %	7.96	8.66	7.51	5.96	6.06	5.43	6.68	5.59	5.65	3.96	2.65	3.05	9.09	6.80	7.30
	SEm±	0.16	0.18	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.86	0.75	0.52	1.67	1.13	0.91	0.08	0.06	0.04
	CD or LSD (5%)	0.48	0.53	0.31	0.26	0.27	0.16	2.51	2.17	1.49	4.86	3.28	2.59	0.24	0.19	0.14

Table.3 Biochemical components of different wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) genotypes

S.N.	Genotype	Total carbohydrate (mg/100g)	Total phenol (mg/100g)	Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)	Total alkaloid (mg/100g)	Steroid content (µg/100g)	Flavonoid content (mg/100g)	Total protein (mg/100g)
1.	CHFG-1	337.74	19.58	12.74	3.90	179.70	10.80	155.78
2.	CHFG-2	315.51	18.36	14.76	3.76	176.89	12.49	154.29
3.	CHFG-3	344.68	22.41	11.54	3.15	195.48	10.61	143.75
4.	CHFG-4	375.78	27.39	16.73	4.68	190.49	13.58	160.34
5.	CHFG-5	356.62	15.27	10.61	3.78	174.50	11.81	150.14
6.	CHFG-6	338.70	16.74	9.87	2.68	184.84	9.81	128.76
7.	CHFG-7	331.62	20.67	12.78	2.81	180.45	10.56	149.85
8.	CHFG-8	350.68	17.63	10.72	3.60	174.26	11.64	151.19
9.	CHFG-9	361.64	25.60	15.81	4.43	187.80	12.86	152.61
10.	CHFG-10	341.71	23.36	12.79	3.59	192.68	10.85	139.50
11.	CHFG-11	319.69	18.44	13.87	3.81	178.47	11.91	154.83
12.	CHFG-12	327.72	24.29	15.78	4.42	178.28	13.24	148.70
13.	CHFG-13	330.64	26.32	9.76	3.98	190.84	12.69	132.65
14.	CHFG-14	348.52	21.46	13.37	2.94	183.72	10.70	146.90
15.	CHFG-15	354.46	20.65	14.50	3.82	182.73	11.17	136.70
	Mean	342.38	21.21	13.04	3.69	183.41	11.65	147.06
	CV %	0.13	1.23	1.83	3.35	0.17	2.14	0.18
	SEm±	0.26	0.15	0.13	0.07	0.18	0.14	0.15
	CD or LSD (5%)	0.78	0.43	0.40	0.20	0.53	0.41	0.45

Maximum fruit weight was observed in CHFG-4 (27.86) while CHFG-6 (16.70) had minimum weight. Maximum number of fruits per plant was observed in CHFG-5 (93.66) while it was minimum in CHFG-12 (61.00). Maximum fruit yield per plant was recorded in CHFG-5 (1.97) which was statistically at par with CHFG-4 (1.95), CHFG-1 (1.90), CHFG-11 (1.88), CHFG-8 (1.82) and CHFG-2 (1.85). Similar results of variability in fruit characters and yield in brinjal were also obtained by Madhavi *et al.*, (2015), Mili *et al.*, (2014) and Prabakaran *et al.*, (2013).

Biochemical components

The biochemical constituents varied in all the genotypes (Table 3). Wild brinjal (*Solanum gilo*) is very nutritive and useful vegetable because it is rich source of protein, minerals, crude fibre, phenolic content, antioxidant activity and important essential amino acids. In the present investigation, total carbohydrate content was lowest in CHFG-2 (315.51) followed by CHFG-11 (319.69) and found highest in CHFG-4 (375.78). Highest total phenol content was observed in CHFG-4 (27.39) while CHFG-5 (15.27) had lowest total phenol content. The genotypes with low total phenol content can be exploited for breeding quality fruits. CHFG-4 (16.73) had the highest ascorbic acid content followed by CHFG-9 (15.81) while minimum ascorbic acid content was recorded in CHFG-13 (9.76). CHFG-6 (2.68) had the lowest total alkaloid content which was statistically at par with CHFG-7 (2.81) while highest content was recorded in CHFG-12 (4.68). Minimum steroid content was observed in CHFG-8 (174.26) while maximum content was observed in CHFG-3 (195.48). Maximum flavonoid content was observed in CHFG-12 (13.58) which was statistically at par with CHFG-4 (13.24) while minimum flavonoid content. Total protein content was found to be highest in CHFG-1 (160.34) followed by

CHFG-4 (155.78) while total protein content was found lowest in CHFG-13 (128.76). The present findings of variability in biochemical components are in agreement with Umesh *et al.*, (2015), Eze and Kanu (2014), Tripathi *et al.*, (2014), Amadi *et al.*, (2013) and Chinedu *et al.*, (2011). *Solanum gilo* fruits contained appreciable amounts of the compounds investigated; these compounds are bioactive and could be behind the nutritional and medicinal potentials of the fruits. On the basis of mean performance of the genotypes for all the traits studied, the genotypes CHFG-4 and CHFG-5 were found to be superior for the yield components and fruit quality traits. So, these genotypes might be used as parental source in any breeding programme.

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