



Genetic divergence in chickpea

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Abstract : The genetic diversity was assessed using Mahalanobis's D^2 statistics wherein 40 genotypes were grouped in eight clusters. The clustering pattern of the genotypes was independent of their geographical distribution. Based on inter cluster distance, Cluster VII was the superior for the character seed yield per plant, protein content and number of pods per plant, cluster II for days to 50 per cent flowering and reaction to insect pest (heliiothis), while cluster VIII for plant height and 100-seed weight and cluster VII for number of primary branches per plant and number of secondary branches per plant. Therefore, it may be concluded that the genotypes belonging to these groups can be utilized in developing diverse variability and improving seed yield in chickpea. The characters pods per plant, number of secondary branches per plant, 100-seed weight, days to 50 % flowering contributed maximum to the divergence.

Key Words : Chickpea, Genetic divergence

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