

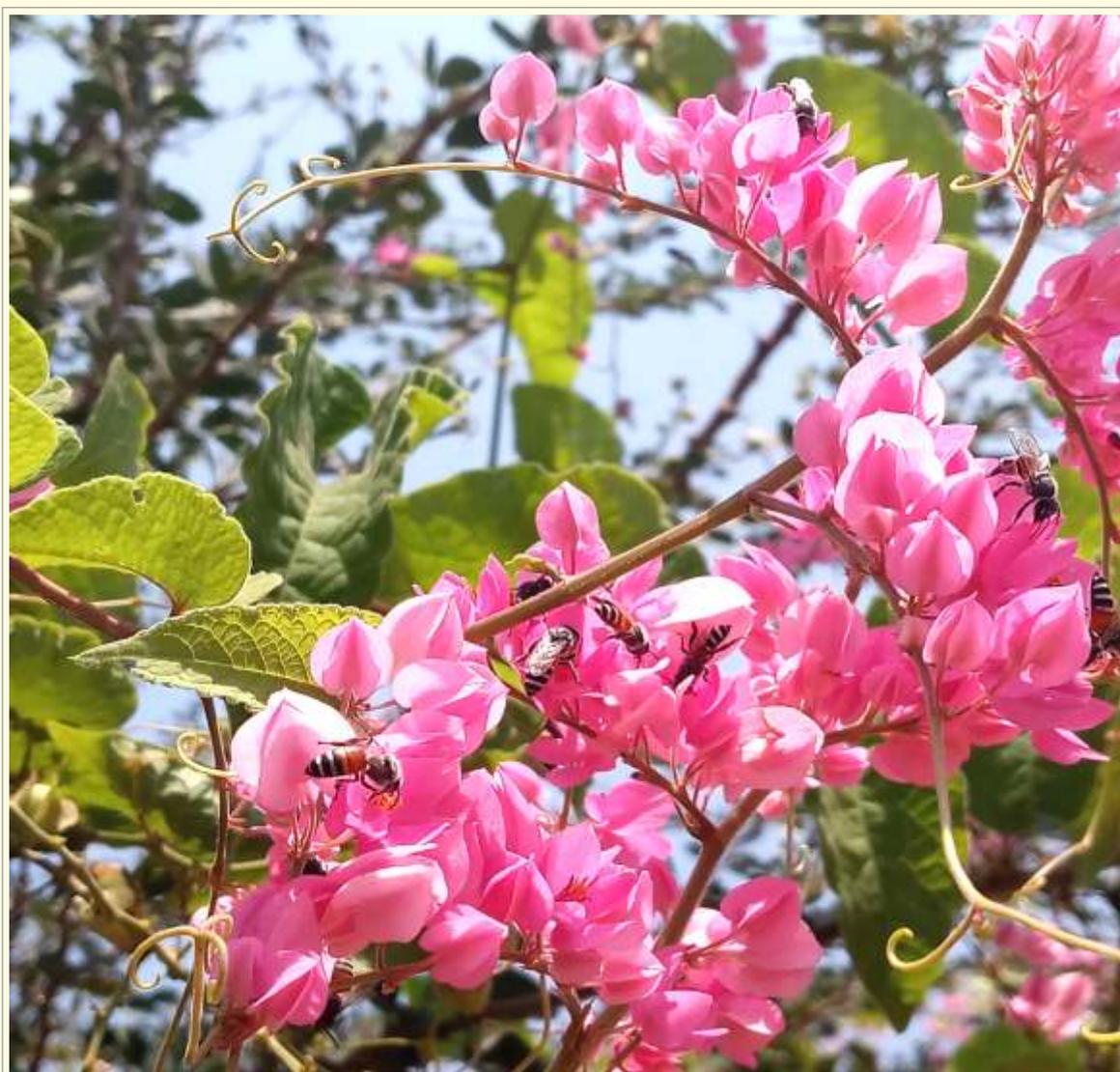
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Conserving Honey Bees with Forage Plant Mexican Creeper - *Antigonon leptopus*

**Society for Promotion of Horticulture**

**ICAR - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru - 560 089**





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Volume 15

Number 2

December 2020

## CONTENTS

### ***In this Issue***

i-ii

### ***Review***

- Biodiversity of tropical fruits and their conservation in India** 107-126  
Sankaran M. and Dinesh M.R.
- An overview of canopy management in cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.)** 127-135  
Adiga D.J., Veena G.L., Thondaiman V. and Babli M.

### ***Original Research in Papers***

- Phenotypic variability for horticultural and fruit quality attributes in plastic house grown tomato** 136-146  
Adeniji O.T., Tenebe A.V., Ishaka A., Jandong E., Adamu J.T., Adekoya M., Zamzam M.A. and Aremu C.A
- Development and evaluation of novel gladiolus hybrid selections IHRG-7 (IC620379) and IHRG-11 (IC620380) for flower quality and *Fusarium* wilt resistance** 147-152  
Rao T.M., Janakiram T., Negi S.S., Aswath C., Dhananjaya M.V., Kumar R. and Ramachandran N.
- Evaluation of potassium salt of phosphonic acid in Nagpur mandarin with special reference to *Phytophthora* management** 153-160  
Ingle Y.V., Paithankar D.H., Sadawarte A.K. and Bhonde S.R.
- Genetic analysis in mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) based on fruit characteristics of 400 genotypes** 161-172  
Sankaran M., Dinesh M.R., Gowda D.C.S. and Venugopalan R.
- Standardization of nitrogen application for potted *Chrysanthemum morifolium* cv. kikiobiory** 173-176  
Tanya Thakur
- Influence of inorganic nutrients on growth, flowering and quality of *Dendrobium* cv. Singapore white** 177-182  
Sujatha A. Nair, Sankar V., Muralidhara, B.M., Awcharae C.M. and Singh D.R.
- Palynological investigations in *Jasminum* spp.** 183-190  
Ganga M., Lakshmi J., Manivannan N. and Rajamani K.



- Effect of putrescine and benzyl adenine on growth, flowering and post-harvest keeping quality parameters in chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum morifolium ramat*)** 191-196  
Taranjit Singh and Madhu Bala
- Studies on bioavailability of iron from fe-fortified commercial edible mushroom *Hypsizygusulmarius* and standardization of its delivery system for human nutrition** 197-206  
Pandey M., Gowda N.K.S., Satisha G.C., Azeez S., Chandrashekara C., Zamil M. and Roy T.K.
- Amino acid profile of eighteen isolate of different edible macrofungal species** 207-220  
Azeez S., Pandey M., Jasmin M.R., Rachitha R., Satisha G.C., Roy T.K.  
Chandrashekara C. and Shivashankara K.S.

### **Short Communications**

- A promising new tamarind selection-lakshamana : Linking biodiversity with livelihood** 221-224  
Kanupriya C., Karunakaran G. and Singh P.
- Mexican creeper, *Antigonon leptopus* Hook. and Arn : An effective bee forage plant to conserve honey bee** 225-228  
Rami Reddy P.V.
- First report on honeydew excretion by the melon thrips, *Thrips palmi* karny (Thysanoptera : Thripidae) and its biochemical analysis** 229-232  
Aravintharaj R., Asokan R. and Roy T.K.
- Influence of potting mixture on growth and economics of stone graft of mango cv. alphonso** 233-237  
Lad O.A., Kulkarni M.M., Ragaji S.G., Gavankar M.S., Burondkar M.M., Gokhale N.B.  
Pawar C.D., Khandekar R.G., Kshirsagar P.J. and Desai V.S.

## ***In this issue...***

### ***Hearty New Year Greetings from our Editorial Team to all the readers of JHS!***

*As the world is slowly coming out of glitches of pandemic, there is no other better way than celebrating 2021 as Year of Fruits and Vegetables as announced by United Nations Assembly to welcome the new year and recognize the importance of nutrition for better health. Fruits and Vegetables ensure the Nutritional Security to humankind. They play key role in addressing the malnutrition that is a major concern. We are proud that JHS creatins awareness of importance of fruits and vegetables by publishing the recent developments in research with respect to these crops.*

*Diversity of fruit crops and genetic resources available with respect to fruit crops are important for developing better fruit crop varieties. **Sankaran and Dinesh** have reviewed the “Biodiveristy of Fruit Crops in India” in a very comprehensive way. There is diversity in Jasmine species. **Ganga et al.** carried out the palynological investigations and recorded the variability in pollen morphology in different species of Jasmine by documenting images using scanning electron microscope. Biodiversity can be linked to livelihood also. One such success story with tamarind selection ‘Lakhamna’ is being reported by **Kanupriya et al.** This tamarind selection has been identified from participatory breeding programme. It has a better pod characters and more preferred by consumers.*

*Protected cultivation has seen greater momentum in last two decades. **Adeniji et al.** identified the best varieties of tomato for polyhouse cultivation in Nigeria. **Rao et al.** selected two gladiolus hybrid selections IIHRG-7 and IIHRG-11 with red purple and red coloured flowers respectively. These hybrids have resistance to Fusarium wilt and suitable for cut flower and flower arrangement purposes. **Sankaran et al.** analysed the variance for 6 quantitative and 30 qualitative traits in mango in 400 genotypes and identified 18 clusters. Selected genotypes from specific clusters can be used in hybridization programme.*

*The production aspects are important in perennial crops. It is crop management that needs to be prioritized for enhanced yield. **Adiga et al.** have reviewed the research work carried in “Canopy Management in Cashew”, providing the wholistic view of cultural operations to have a better crop. Use of soilless medium in nursery industry is gaining importance. Best suited potting mixture for mango stone graft of cv. Alphonso has been identified by **Lad et al.** They found that cocopeat + leaf manure + compost (1:1:2) as pot mixture provided better plant growth.*

*Growing Chrysanthemum in pots is practiced in home and terrace gardens. The cultivar Kikiobiory is well suited for this purpose. **Thakur** has studied the nitrogen requirement for this cultivar and has come out with the recommendation of 300 mg of N per pot applied*



twice in September and October in Punjab for best results. In another study, **Singh and Bala** confirmed that use of benzyl adenine at 200 ppm helped in extended vase life of *Chrysanthemum morifolium* flowers. **Nair et al.** recorded that foliar spray of 30:20:20 NPK at weekly interval recorded more number of flowers of *Dendrobium* cv. Singapore White with significantly longer spikes.

Crop production is directly influenced by pollinators. Decline in honey bee population is a serious concern and to conserve the pollinators community approach through ecosystem services is required. **Rami Reddy** reports the benefits of having ornamental plant Mexican Creeper (*Antigonon leptopus*) as forage plant. This creeper attracted all the four species of honey bees studied. This creeper can be used as bioindicator of honey bee population.

**Aravindaraj et al.** have reported the honey dew secretion by *Thrips palmi* and analysed the composition of it. They had identified different sugars present in the honey dew secretion of *Thrips*. *Thrips* not only cause direct damage but act as vectors of many plant viruses. Management of diseases in perennial crops is a challenge. *Phytophthora* incited root infection in citrus needs concerted efforts. **Ingle et al.** have demonstrated that use of potassium salt of phosphonic acid could help in management of *Phytophthora* root rot in Nagpur Mandarin.

Mushrooms can fill the gaps in nutritional security as they are rich in nutritive value. Iron deficiency is important issue to be addressed. Iron fortified oyster mushroom products have been developed by **Pandey et al.** The bioavailability of iron from Arka Mushroom Fe-Fortified Rasam Powder has been confirmed. In another study, the amino acid profile of 18 isolates of oyster mushroom species belonging to 4 species have been documented by **Azeez et al.** Quantification of essential and non-essential amino acids has been reported. Nutritionally superior isolates can be selected from these isolates.

The editorial team of JHS expresses the sincere efforts of reviewers who really complement the publication processes. All scientists and scholars can utilize the open access of JHS. Recently FAO has made JHS available through AGRIS. It is indexed by Redalyc, CABI\_Hort and Scopus. All subscribers, scientists and scholars are requested to continue their support in publishing quality information in **Journal of Horticultural Sciences**.

**S. Sriram**  
Editor in Chief

**Short Communication**

**First report on honeydew excretion by the melon thrips, *Thrips palmi* Karny (Thysanoptera : Thripidae) and its biochemical analysis**

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**ABSTRACT**

Sap sucking insects like thrips, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies exploit the sugar rich phloem for growth and development. The excess sugar in the phloem sap creates osmotic imbalance leading to loss of water from haemolymph to gut lumen. In order to maintain osmolarity, sap sucking insects have developed structural adaptation (filter chamber) and also excrete excess sugar as honeydew through various orifices. The excreted honeydew is known to play very vital ecological role such as natural enemy calling (attracting parasitoids). In this regard scanty information is available on this important aspect for different sap sucking insects. In this study we are reporting for the first time on the composition of honeydew from the major horticultural thrips, *Thrips palmi* reared on French bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). LC-MS-MS analysis revealed the presence of 15 different sugars majorly inositol, fructose, maltose, glucose and sorbitol @ (130.9 ±0.47µg); (95.1±0.45µg); (60.7 ±0.28µg); (54.2 ±0.40µg) and (28.1 ±0.35µg), respectively.

**Keywords:** Honeydew, LC-MS-MS and Sugars and *Thrips palmi*

Sap sucking insects such as thrips, aphids, whitefly, mealybugs, leafhoppers, psyllids *etc.* feed primarily on the phloem sap which is rich in sugars such as sucrose, fructose, trehalose, maltose, raffinose, meteoritose *etc.*; free amino acids such as asparagine, glutamine, glutamate and serine (Hijaz and Killiny, 2014). Feeding of sugar rich sap leads to differential osmolarity between the hemolymph and gut lumen. To maintain the osmolarity between the gut lumen and the haemolymph, phloem feeders have developed several adaptations such as filter-chamber for efficient water usage and to excrete excess sugars in the form of honeydew through different orifices such as cornicles in aphids and anus in many other sap sucking insects. Honeydew acts as a medium through which insecticides are excreted and thereby contribute to the development of resistance to insecticides. This excretion of copious amount of honeydew on crops serves as substrate for the development of many

saprophytic fungi like *Capnodium* sp., which affects photosynthesis (Lin, 2006; Wallace, 2008; Neto, 2011). It is also reported to be involved in natural enemy calling, which is self-inimical and provide food for ants which ensures dispersal and protection from the predators (Leroy *et al.*, 2011). It has also been documented that honeydew is also a source of food for parasitoids involved in biological control. Rate of honeydew excretion and its composition by aphids and whiteflies is well studied, but the information on honeydew excretion by thrips is not studied in detail. Hence, a study was conducted to understand the pattern of honeydew excretion by the melon thrips, *T. palmi* due to its significance as a polyphagous pest and an important vector of *Watermelon bud necrosis virus* and *Groundnut bud necrosis virus* in India. Stock culture of *T. palmi* was maintained on French bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* CV. Arka Komal) pods at a temperature of 25±2°C and 68±% RH (Rebijith *et al.*, 2011). One hundred adults of *T. palmi* were released on fresh French bean pods

This is part of Ph.D. thesis of first author submitted to Jain (Deemed to be ) University , Bengaluru



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of approximately equal size (3cm surface width; 13 cm length and 6 g in weight) which were harvested from the French bean plants grown under insect proof cages. The samples with thrips were placed inside a plastic container (10cm x10cm) and kept at the room temperature ( $25\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $68\pm\%$  RH). There were three replicates and same replicates of control (without inoculating *T. palmi*) were also maintained. Observations were made continually on the behavior of *T. palmi* adults and for the excretion of honeydew under the stereo-zoom microscope Stemi 305 (ZEISS, Germany).

Sugars were separated by following modified Steppuhn and Wackers (2004) method. After 24 h observation, the bean pods were washed with 10 mL of 80% ethanol, and the extract was evaporated and re-dissolved in mobile phase containing solvent A and solvent B in 1:1 ratio, filtered and injected to LC-MS/MS for sugar profiling.

Sugar standards *viz.* fructose, sucrose, galactose, glucose, maltose, fucose, rhamnose, xylose, arabinose, mannose, sorbitol, inositol, lactose, ribose and trehalose were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., USA and calibration curve was prepared using different concentration of individual sugars. The mobile phase used was composed of solvent (A) 80:20 (Acetonitrile: Water) and solvent (B) 30:70 Acetonitrile: water with 0.1% ammonium hydroxide was filtrated through 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  nylon filter paper and separation was done using gradient elution. The initial gradient was composed of 100% solvent A for one min and at 8<sup>th</sup> min it was changed to 88% of solution A and 12% of solution B, which was held for 1 mint and a linear gradient was followed by 98% of solution A and 2% of solution B and at 15<sup>th</sup> mins it was held for 30 sec. The system had returned to initial settings at 19<sup>th</sup> min and equilibrated for 6 min. before the next injection and the flow rate was 0.1mL/min. The analytical column used was 2.1x10 mm UPLC BEH-Amide (Waters, USA) with 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  particle size and protected by vanguard BEH-Amide with particle size 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ . The column was maintained temperature of  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Study was conducted to understand the pattern of honeydew excretion by the melon thrips. Close

observation under the stereo microscope revealed that *T. palmi* adults excrete honeydew which lasted for about 10 sec from initiation bending of abdomen to the release. These events were recorded in VLC format. Analysis of sugars in the honeydew revealed that there was a significant difference between the control samples and samples inoculated with thrips. Among the sugars estimated, inositol was the predominant sugar ( $130.95 \pm 0.47 \mu\text{g/pod}$ ) in the honeydew followed by fructose ( $95.13 \pm 0.45 \mu\text{g/pod}$ ); maltose ( $60.700 \pm 0.28\mu\text{g/pod}$ ); glucose ( $54.22 \pm 0.40\mu\text{g/pod}$ ); sorbitol ( $28.15 \pm 0.35\text{g/pod}$ ) (Fig: 2) followed by less of lactose, mannose, galactose, arabinose, ribose and fucose (Table 1). It clearly indicated that the honeydew excreted by thrips is rich in soluble sugars. There is a single report on honeydew excretion by the red banded thrips, *Selenothrips rubrocinctus* (Giard) (Buss *et. al.*, 2006). Wool *et al.* (2006) reported about 20 sugars in the honeydew excreted by aphids. Glucose and fructose are basic components of the honeydew of sap feeding insects (Fischer *et al.*, 2005; Wool *et al.*, 2006). These sugars are present in honeydew in different proportions depending on the insect species and host plants. Hendrix *et al.* (1992) also observed the differences in sugar composition of honeydew excreted by *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* (Westwood) and *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) feeding on different host plants.

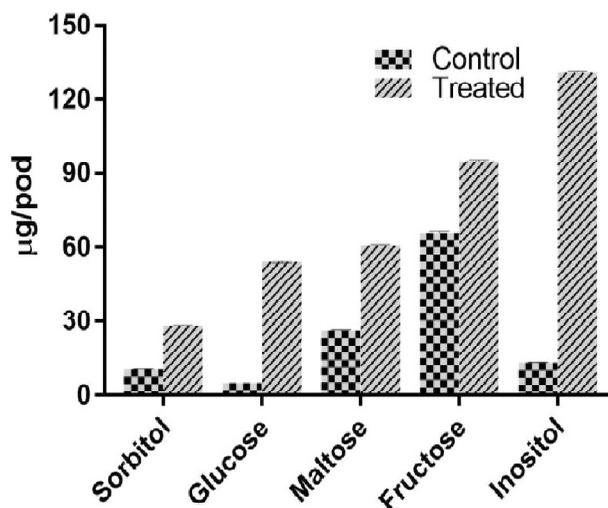


Fig. 1. Contents of major water soluble sugars in beans with or without thrips infestation

**Table 1. Biochemical analyses of water-soluble sugars by LC-MS-MS in the bean pods with or without thrips infestation**

Sugar	Control ( $\pm$ SE)	Treated ( $\pm$ SE)
Ribose	0.930 $\pm$ 0.00	3.860 $\pm$ 0.05
Arabinose	0.553 $\pm$ 0.00	3.907 $\pm$ 0.04
Xylose	3.690 $\pm$ 0.08	0.683 $\pm$ 0.02
Rhamnose	0.030 $\pm$ 0.00	0.163 $\pm$ 0.00
Fucose	0.010 $\pm$ 0.00	0.020 $\pm$ 0.00
Glucose	5.190 $\pm$ 0.02	54.227 $\pm$ 0.40
Fructose	66.253 $\pm$ 0.56	95.137 $\pm$ 0.45
Galactose	1.757 $\pm$ 0.08	4.293 $\pm$ 0.23
Mannose	5.100 $\pm$ 0.09	5.253 $\pm$ 0.07
Inositol	13.360 $\pm$ 0.03	130.957 $\pm$ 0.47
Sorbitol	10.660 $\pm$ 0.09	28.153 $\pm$ 0.35
Maltose	26.420 $\pm$ 0.12	60.700 $\pm$ 0.28
Lactose	0.907 $\pm$ 0.00	3.820 $\pm$ 0.04
Sucrose	0.343 $\pm$ 0.00	0.890 $\pm$ 0.01
Trehalose	0.010 $\pm$ 0.00	0.030 $\pm$ 0.00
Total	135.213 $\pm$ 1.12	392.093 $\pm$ 2.46

Differences in chemical composition of honeydew secreted by aphids are explained inter alia by genetic variation between insect populations (Fischer and Shingleton, 2001). However, the host plant sap is a primary factor that influence the diversity in biochemical composition of honeydew. Honeydew composition is an important factor in tri-tropic interaction involving natural enemies and also mediating ant-homopteran mutualisms. However, further studies on sugar composition in relation to species of ants attracted and its impact on predation/parasitism is required in order to have sustainable management of this pest.

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## AUTHOR INDEX - VOL. 15 ( 1&2) 2020

Name	Page	Name	Page
<b>A</b>		Gavankar, M. S.	233
Adamu, J.T.	136	Gokhale, N. B.	233
Adekoya, M.	136	Gowda D. C. S.	161
Adeniji, O.T.	136	Gowda, N. K. S.	197
Aghora T.S.	62	I	
Ahamed N.	17	Ingle Y. V.	153
Aravintharaj, R.	229	Ishaka, A.	136
Aremu, C.A.	136	J	
Ashok Kumar J.	45	Jadhav S.B.	67
Asokan, R.	229	Janakiram, T.	147
Aswath C.	93	Jandong, E.	136
Aswath, C.	147	Jasmin M. R.	207
Awcharae, C. M.	177	Jessy Mol K.K.	52
Azeez, S.	197, 207	K	
<b>B</b>		Kalaivanan D.	9
Babli, M.	127	Kanupriya, C.	221
Bala, M.	191	Karunakaran, G.	221
Bhatt R.M.	62	Katwate S.M.	67
Bhonde, S. R.	153	Khandekar, R. G.	233
Burondkar, M. M.	233	Kshirsagar, P. J.	233
<b>C</b>		Kulkarni, M. M.	233
Chandran, N. K.	81	Kumar D.	17
Chandrashekara C.	197, 207	Kumar, R.	147
<b>D</b>		L	
Desai, V. S.	233	Lad, O. A.	233
Dhananjaya, M. V.	147	Lakshmana Reddy D.C	52
Dinakara Adiga, J.	127	Lakshmi, J.	183
Dinesh, M. R.	107, 161	Laxman R.H.	35
<b>G</b>		M	
GaneshamurthyA.N.	9	Madhavi Reddy K	52
Ganga, M.	183	Manivannan, N.	183
		Manjunath B.L.,	35



<b>Name</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Page</b>
Manoj Y.B.	52	Sankar V	177
Meena H.R.	72	Sankaran, M.	107, 161
Mohan N.	62	Satisha G.C.	197, 207
Muralidhara, B. M	177	Shejal A. Porob	97
<b>N</b>		Shilpa Pandurangaiah,	27
Nair A.K.	35	Shivashankar K.S.	27
Negi, S. S.	147	Shivashankara, K. S.	207
<b>P</b>		Singh D. R.	177
Paithankar, D. H.	153	Singh S.R.	17
Pandey, M.	197, 207	Singh, P.	221
Pawar, C. D.	233	Singh, T.	191
Priya Devi S	45, 97	Somasundaram J.	72
<b>R</b>		Sriram S.	81
Rachitha R.	207	Srivastava K.K.	17
Radha T.K.	72	Sudhakar Rao D.V.	27
Ragaji, S. G.	233	Sujatha A. Nair	177
Raghu B.R.	1	Susmita C.	62
Raghupathi H.B.	9	<b>T</b>	
Rajamani, K.	183	Tanya Thakur	173
Rajiv Kumar	93	Tejaswini Prakash	81
Ramachandran, N.	147	Tenebe, A.V.	136
Ramachandrudu K	45	Thangam M	45, 97
Rami Reddy, P. V.	225	Thondaiman, V.	127
Rao, T. M.,	147	<b>V</b>	
Rashmi I.	72	Veena, G.L.	127
Ravishankar K.V	27	Venugopalan, R.	161
Roy, T. K.	197, 207, 229	Vichare S.V	67
Rupa T.R	9	<b>Y</b>	
<b>S</b>		Yousuf S.	17
Sadashiva A.T.	27	<b>Z</b>	
Sadawarte, A. K.	153	Zamil, M.	207
Safeena S.A.	45	Zamzam, M.A.	136

## SUBJECT INDEX - VOL. 15 (1&2) 2020

Name	Page	Name	Page
<b>A</b>			
Alphonso	233	Foot rot	152
Amino acid score	207	Free amino acids	207
Antigonon	225	Fruit development	97
Anti-senescence compound	191	Fruit trees	9
Apis spp	225	Fruit quality	136
Arka Mushroom Rasam	197	Fruit shape	136
<b>B</b>			
B:C ratio	233	Fruit yield	136
Bee flora	225	Fruits	107
Bioavailability	197	Fusarium wilt	147
Biplot analysis	161	<b>G</b>	
Bound amino acids	207	Garden pea	62
Breeding	62	GCV	161
Bulb	67	Genetic diversity	17
<b>C</b>			
Canopy management	127	Genetic analysis	161
Carotene	27	Genetic divergence	45
Carotenoid	27	Genotype by environment	136
CGMS	52	Gerbera	93
Character correlation	136	Germplasm	1, 107
Chrysanthemum	173, 191	GIS	107
Conservation	107	Gladiolus	147
Copper	72	Goa	97
Correlation coefficient	45	Groundwater depletion	9
Curry leaves	1	Growth	67
Cut flower production	177	Growth parameters	233
Cut-flower	93	Gummosis	152
<b>D</b>			
Delayed flowering	191	<b>H</b>	
Dendrobium	177	Heritability	161
Distribution	1	High temperature	62
Diversity	1	Honey bees	225
Drought	9	Honeydew	229
<b>E</b>			
Early summer	62	Hot pepper	52
Evaluation	93, 147	Hybrid	67
Ex situ	107	Hypsizygus ulmarius	197
<b>F</b>			
Flower	67	<b>I</b>	
Flowering	147	In situ	107
<b>G</b>			
<b>H</b>			
<b>I</b>			
<b>J</b>			
<b>K</b>			
<b>L</b>			
<b>M</b>			
<b>N</b>			
<b>O</b>			
<b>P</b>			
<b>Q</b>			
<b>R</b>			
<b>S</b>			
<b>T</b>			
<b>U</b>			
<b>V</b>			
<b>W</b>			
<b>X</b>			
<b>Y</b>			
<b>Z</b>			
<b>Other</b>			



<b>Name</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>L</b>			
LC-MS-MS	229	Pruning	127
Leaf analysis	72	Pulp recovery	221
Lycopene	27	<b>Q</b>	
<b>M</b>			
Manganese	72	Quality	177
Mango	161, 233	Quantitative character	45
Marker Assisted Selection	52	<b>R</b>	
Micronutrient deficiency	72	Resistance Gene Analogues (RGA)	81
Mitochondria	52	Rootstocks	127
Morphotypes	1	Rose	81
Mushrooms	197	<b>S</b>	
<b>N</b>			
Nagpur mandarin	152	Sapota	72
Nitrogen	173	Scheduling irrigation	35
Novel hybrids	93	Selection	221
Nucleotide Binding Site-Leucine	81	Single linkage cluster analysis	17
Rich Repeats (NBS-LRR)		Single type tuberose	67
Nutrients	177	Soil volume wetting	35
Nutrition	207	Soilless media	233
<b>O</b>			
Onion	17	Solanum lycopersicum	136
Orchid	177	Spacing	35
ORF	52	Standardization	173
Ornamental creeper	225	Stress tolerance	62
<b>P</b>			
Palynology	183	Sugars	229
Papaya yield	35	<b>T</b>	
PBZ	127	Tamarind	221
PCV	161	Thrips palmi	229
Peak water	9	Tomato	27
Perennial crops	9	Training	127
Phytophthora	152	Tropical	107
Pink types	97	<b>V</b>	
Planting geometry	127	Variability	136
Podosphaera pannosa	81	Varieties	107
Policy issue	9	Vase life	147, 191
Pollen germination	183	Vegetable cowpea	45
Pollen morphology	183	<b>W</b>	
Polyhouse	93, 136	Water use efficiency	35
Potassium salt of phosphonic acid (PSPA)	152	Wax apple	97
Potted plants	173	White types	97
Powdery mildew	81	Wild species	107
Principal component analysis	17	<b>Y</b>	
		Yield	221
		<b>Z</b>	
		Zinc	72



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