Assessment of Genetic Variability among the Landraces of Little Millets
*Panicum sumatrense* from Different District of Madhya Pradesh

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Present study was conducted on genetic diversity using ISSR markers for a total of 40 landraces of little millet (*Panicum sumatrense*) collected from five different districts of Madhya Pradesh. Ten ISSR markers amplified total 42 loci while 32 loci showed 76.19% polymorphism. Maximum number (06) of alleles were scored by the primers UBC-807 whereas, minimum number of alleles (03) were scored by the primers UBC-816. Percentage of the number of polymorphic loci within population among the three regions, the highest frequency of polymorphism was found in the Dindori region (97.61) followed by the Betul region (80.95) and the lowest were in the Chhindwara region (40.47). Cluster analysis was estimated and a dendrogram was generated using Unweighted Pair Group Analysis (UPGMA). The highest genetic variability was observed between Amwa-38, Shivri-31 and Kharapipani-24 collected from Rewa and Dindori both of them grouped distantly. The highest PIC value (0.53) was observed by using primer UBC-853 having 06 alleles among the 40 landraces of little millets. The results indicated that ISSR marker system can be effectively used in determination of genetic relationship necessary for their conservation and breeding programs among the landraces of little millets grown in different districts of Madhya Pradesh, India.

**Keywords**
Polymorphism, UPGMA, Landraces, Genetic variability, Genetic conservation, Phylogenetic relationship

**Introduction**

Little millet belongs to the family Poaceae, sub-family Panicoideae and the tribe Paniceae (Rachie, 1975). It is grown indigenously in the tropics and sub tropics. It is a drought tolerant crop and requires less amount of water to complete its life cycle. Little millet is widely distributed in temperate zone of Asia and tropical region of the world. Among Indian states, mainly Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharastra and Orrisa. In Madhya Pradesh, a number of land races of little millet are grown widely in Rewa, Sahadol, Satna, Anuppur, Shidhi, Umaria, and Singarauli district (Jain and Singh, 2008). It is rich in vitamin B, minerals like potassium, phosphorus, iron, zinc and magnesium. Therefore it can address nutritional sensitive agriculture, which aims at nutritional enhancement to combat the present scenario of micronutrient malnutrition (Arunachalam *et al.*, 2005; Kundgol *et al.*, 2014; Selvi *et al.*, 2015). The most pre-requisite in crop
breeding is, exploitation of genetic variability existing in the crop for yield and related traits. Various DNA-based markers systems have been applied to several plants groups for delimiting clones and to assess their level of genetic diversity. Molecular markers have been proven to be use for crop improvement and evaluation of genetic resources (Mohan et al., 1997). PCR-based molecular markers are widely used in many plant species for identification, phylogenetic analyses, population studies and genetic linkage mapping (Williams et al., 1990). The ISSR analysis is a very useful molecular tool for studying population genetics on a wide range of plant species, as well as for identifying species, cultivars, or population of the same species (Zietkiewicz et al., 1994 and Wang et al., 2009). The present study was aimed to explore genetic variability in little millet landraces. The information on genetic variability and component analysis can be of great help in formulating appropriate breeding strategy for genetic upgradation of little millets. The present study was undertaken with the objective to analyze the genetic variability among the landraces of little millet through ISSR marker.

**Materials and Methods**

**Plant materials**

Forty landraces of little millet were collected from five different geographical regions of Madhya Pradesh. Plants were grown in polyhouse and collected the fresh young leaf samples for isolation of genomic DNA.

**DNA extraction**

DNA was isolated from young leaves of little millet using CTAB Protocol (Saghai-Marooof et al., 1984) with some modifications. Chemical used for the extraction of DNA were 100mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 20mM EDTA (pH 8.0), 0.5M NaCl, 2% CTAB (Cetyl Trimethyl-Ammonium Bromide), 0.2% β-mercaptoethanol, 2.5% PVP (Polyvinylpyrrolidone), 24:1Chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (IAA), 3M sodium acetate (pH4.8), Isopropanol (-20°C), 70% ethanol, 5M NaCl. DNA quality was tested by (0.8%) agarose gel electrophoresis and visualized under UV light.

**PCR analysis**

The PCR amplification procedure for amplification of DNA components and their concentration used in the ISSR. PCR reaction was prepared as described in Table 2. PCR amplification reactions volume of 20μl consisting 2μl of PCR buffer 1X, 2.4μl of MgCl2 2.5mM, 0.2μl of Tag Polymerase (5Unit/μl) 0.5μl of dNTPs10mM, 2μl of Primer 10pM, 2μl of genomic DNA 50ng and nuclease free water was used to make up the total volume 20μl. Amplifications were performed using “BIORAD T100 and Agilent Technologies Sure Cycler 8800” programmable thermal cycler with the cycling parameters that was programmed for ISSR with an initial denaturation step at 94°C for 4 min followed by 45 cycles at 94°C for 45 second, 50°C for 1 min annealing and 72°C for 2 min elongation. In the final cycle, the elongation step at 72°C was extended by 5 min

**Statistical data analysis**

PCR product using ISSR primers were scored on the agarose gel as presence (1) or absence (0) of bands of molecular weight size in the form of binary matrix for the entire sample studied. The frequency of a null allele at a given locus was estimated by taking the square root of the frequency of null homozygosity (the absence of a band), which assumes that there are two alleles at a locus under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Based on
the estimated frequency of a null allele, frequency of heterozygosity (\(H\)) within population (\(H_s\)) and all individuals (\(H_t\)) were calculated. The genetic differentiation among populations (\(G_{st}\)) was calculated as (\(H_t - \text{average } H_s)/H_t\) (Nei 1973). Data were analyzed to obtain Jaccard’s coefficients among the isolates by using NTSYS-PC Version 2.02e software (Rohlf, 1998). Polymorphic information content (PIC) values were calculated for each ISSR primer according to the formula: \(\text{PIC} = 1 - R(P_{ij})^2\), where \(P_{ij}\) is the frequency of the \(i\)th pattern revealed by the \(j\)th primer summed across all patterns revealed by the primers (Botstein et al., 1980). A dendrogram was constructed using UPGMA (Unweighted Pair-Group Method with Arithmetic Averages) with the SAHN (Sequential, Agglomerative, Hierarchical, and Nested Clustering) routine.

**Results and Discussion**

The marker analysis helps to understand the genetic makeup of the germplasm and also make it possible to analyze genetic diversity within species as well as between species. In the present study 40 land races of little millets (Table 1) were used for ISSR analysis with 10 random primers (Table 3) which gave scorable DNA bands and each of the 10 random primers revealed polymorphism (Table 4).

The primers produced high degree of polymorphism with an average of 76.19%. Average 4.2 bands per primer were amplified. Among the 10 primers two primers viz. UBC-834 and UBC-853 revealed 100% polymorphism. The percentage of polymorphism across the landraces of little millet ranged from 60–100%. Polymorphism Information Content (PIC) was estimated for each of the 10 ISSR markers. Higher value of PIC score indicated higher polymorphism of the ISSR markers and therefore helped in selecting the best ISSR marker in phylogenetic analysis. The Highest PIC value (0.53) was observed for UBC-853 which has 04 alleles among the 40 landraces of little millets. Markers UBC834, UBC-807 also had high PIC scores with high number of alleles. Lowest PIC value (0.37) was obtained from UBC-816. Percentage of the number of polymorphic loci within population among the three regions, the highest frequency of polymorphism was found in the Dindori region (97.61) followed by the Betul region (80.95) and the lowest were in the Chhindwara region (40.47). Polymorphism was also detected within each region (Table 5). The results also showed that the Dindori region had the highest \(H_s\) among the four regions (0.35), while the \(H_s\) of the Betul region was 0.34 and Chhindwara region was 0.14. Rewa \(H_t\) was 0.25 and \(G_{st}\) on these four geographic regions was 0.20. Percentage of the number of polymorphic loci within region was the highest in the Dindori region (97.61%, \(n=22\)), second was in the Betul region (80.95%, \(n=4\)), and the third was Rewa region (76.19%, \(n=6\)), lowest was in Chhindwara region (40.47%, \(n=4\)). The cluster analysis was carried out based on PCR amplification banding pattern of ISSR primers, pairwise genetic similarity among 40 landraces of little millet. A dendrogram was generated using Unweighted Pair Group Analysis (UPGMA) in “NTSYS-pc version 2.02e” programme (Fig. 1).

Phylogenetic relationships the Dindori region formed a genetically distinct group based on their genetic distance from the individuals in the Chhindwara, Betul, and Rewa region. The highest genetic diversity was observed in Dindori region.

The results indicated that ISSR markers have been successfully utilized for assessing the genetic diversity and revealed a remarkable molecular discrimination between the 40 landraces of little millet.
### Table 1 List of collected landraces of little millet

| SN   | Name of accessions        | Collection site | Geographical location | District    |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|      |                           |                 | Latitude | Longitude |           |
| 1    | REWKUT20171125-4         | Amwa-1          | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 2    | REWKUT20171125-6         | Amwa-2          | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 3    | REWKUT20171126-1         | Pokhara-3       | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 4    | REWKUT20171126-3         | Pokhara-4       | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 5    | REWKUT20171126-5         | Charhai-5       | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 6    | REWKUT20171126-6         | Charhai-6       | N 34, 48, 19 | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa       |
| 7    | CHHKUT20171127-2         | Pipariya-7      | N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Chhindwara |
| 8    | CHHKUT20171127-4         | Pipariya-8      | N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Chhindwara |
| 9    | CHHKUT20171127-9         | Ghugarlakalan-9 | N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Chhindwara |
| 10   | CHHKUT20171127-11        | Ghugarlakalan-10| N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Chhindwara |
| 11   | BETKUT20171128-2         | Lahas-11        | N 21, 54, 4    | E 77, 53, 45 | Betul      |
| 12   | BETKUT20171128-4         | Lahas-12        | N 21, 54, 4    | E 77, 53, 45 | Betul      |
| 13   | BETKUT20171128-5         | Khamla-13       | N 21, 54, 4    | E 77, 53, 45 | Betul      |
| 14   | BETKUT20171128-7         | Khamla-14       | N 21, 54, 4    | E 77, 53, 45 | Betul      |
| 15   | DINKUT20160830-1         | Shivri-15       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 16   | DINKUT20160830-2         | Shivri-16       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 17   | DINKUT20160830-3         | Shivri-17       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 18   | DINKUT20160830-4         | Shivri-18       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 19   | DINKUT20160830-5         | Shivri-19       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 20   | DINKUT20160830-6         | Sherajhar-20    | N 22, 55, 17   | E 81, 19, 16 | Dindori    |
| 21   | DINKUT20160830-7         | Sherajhar-21    | N 22, 55, 17   | E 81, 19, 16 | Dindori    |
| 22   | DINKUT20160830-8         | Khaparipani-22  | N 22, 39, 20   | E 81, 16, 41 | Dindori    |
| 23   | DINKUT20160830-9         | Khaparipani-23  | N 22, 39, 20   | E 81, 16, 41 | Dindori    |
| 24   | DINKUT20160830-10        | Khaparipani-24  | N 22, 39, 20   | E 81, 16, 41 | Dindori    |
| 25   | DINKUT20160830-11        | Khaparipani-25  | N 22, 39, 20   | E 81, 16, 41 | Dindori    |
| 26   | DINKUT20160830-12        | Khaparipani-26  | N 22, 39, 20   | E 81, 16, 41 | Dindori    |
| 27   | DINKUT20180219-1         | Fadki-27        | N 22, 59, 59   | E 80, 57, 28 | Dindori    |
| 28   | DINKUT20180219-2         | Aunrai-28       | N 22, 56, 36   | E 81, 4, 37  | Dindori    |
| 29   | DINKUT20180219-3         | Padariya-29     | N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Dindori    |
| 30   | DINKUT20180315-1         | Shivri-30       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 31   | DINKUT20180315-2         | Shivri-31       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 32   | DINKUT20180315-3         | Shivri-32       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 33   | DINKUT20180315-4         | Shivri-33       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 34   | DINKUT20180315-5         | Shivri-34       | N 22, 50, 35   | E 81, 14, 57 | Dindori    |
| 35   | DINKUT20180315-6         | Dindori-35      | N 22, 56, 36   | E 81, 4, 38  | Dindori    |
| 36   | JABKUT20180315-7         | Kundam-36       | N 23, 13, 7    | E 80, 21, 3  | Janalpur    |
| 37   | 20171125Weedy             | Rewa-37         | N 34, 48, 19   | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa        |
| 38   | REKUT20171125-8           | Amwa-38         | N 34, 48, 19   | E 82, 21, 54 | Rewa        |
| 39   | CHHKUT20171127-12        | Ghugarlakalan-39| N 22, 3, 26    | E 78, 56, 17 | Chhindwara  |
| 40   | BETKUT20171128-4         | Khamla-40       | N 21, 54, 4    | E 77, 53, 45 | Betul       |
Table.2 PCR components with their concentrations used for PCR reaction

| Sl. | Components                  | Concentrations | Volume |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1.  | 10X PCR buffer              | 1 x            | 2.0μl  |
| 2.  | 25mM MgCl₂                  | 2.5mM          | 2.4μl  |
| 3.  | 10mM dNTPs                  | 200µM          | 0.5μl  |
| 4.  | Primer                      | 10pM           | 2.0μl  |
| 5.  | *Tag* Polymerase (5 Unit/μl)| 1 unit         | 0.2μl  |
| 6.  | Nuclease free H₂O           | For volume making | 10.9μl |
| 7.  | DNA                         | 50ng           | 2.0μl  |

Table.3 List of ISSR primer and their sequence

| S. No. | Primer Code | Primer Sequence 5’-3’ |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1      | UBC-834     | 5’-AGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGYT-3’ |
| 2      | UBC-807     | 5’-AGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGT-3’ |
| 3      | UBC-841     | 5’-GAGAGAGAGAGAGAC-3’  |
| 4      | UBC-853     | 5’-TCT CTC TCT CTC TCT CRT-3’ |
| 5      | UBC-845     | 5’-CTC TCT CTC TCT CTC TRG-3’ |
| 6      | UBC-812     | 5’-GAG AGA GAG AAG AA-3’ |
| 7      | UBC-816     | 5’-CAC ACA CAC ACA CAC AT-3’ |
| 8      | UBC-825     | 5’-ACA CAC ACA CAC ACA CT-3’ |
| 9      | UBC-884     | 5’-HBH AGA GAG AGA GAG AG-3’ |
| 10     | UBC-886     | 5’-VDV CTC TCT CTC TCT CT-3’ |

Table.4 Polymorphism Information Content (PIC) value of using ISSR markers among 40 landraces of little millet

| SN  | Primer   | No. of allele | Monomorphic band | Polymorphic band | % of polymorphism | Polymorphism Information Content (PIC) |
|-----|----------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1   | UBC-834  | 4             | 0                | 4                | 100               | 0.51                                  |
| 2   | UBC-807  | 7             | 1                | 6                | 85.71             | 0.48                                  |
| 3   | UBC-841  | 5             | 2                | 3                | 60                | 0.42                                  |
| 4   | UBC-853  | 4             | 0                | 4                | 100               | 0.53                                  |
| 5   | UBC-872  | 5             | 1                | 4                | 80                | 0.41                                  |
| 6   | UBC-812  | 4             | 2                | 2                | 50                | 0.39                                  |
| 7   | UBC-816  | 3             | 1                | 2                | 66.66             | 0.37                                  |
| 8   | UBC-825  | 4             | 1                | 3                | 75                | 0.38                                  |
| 9   | UBC-884  | 4             | 1                | 3                | 75                | 0.41                                  |
| 10  | UBC-886  | 4             | 1                | 3                | 75                | 0.45                                  |
| Total |          | 42            | 10               |                  |                   |                                       |

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Table 5: Genetic diversity within region

| SN | Region     | Number of populations | Number of individuals | Number of polymorphic loci within region | % of polymorphic loci within region | Hs or Ht | Gst |
|----|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| 1  | Rewa       | 4                     | 10                    | 32                                      | 76.19                              | 0.25     | 0.20|
| 2  | Chhindwara | 2                     | 4                     | 17                                      | 40.47                              | 0.14     |       |
| 3  | Betul      | 2                     | 4                     | 34                                      | 80.95                              | 0.34     |       |
| 4  | Dindori    | 5                     | 22                    | 41                                      | 97.61                              | 0.35     |       |
| 5  | All locations | 13                    | 40                    | 32                                      | 76.91                              | 0.34     |       |

Fig.1: Dendrogram on the basis of the ISSR marker similarity matrix data by Unweighted Pair Group Method with Average (UPGMA) cluster analysis among 40 landraces of little millet.

The ISSR analysis revealed the information on genetic variability and component analysis can be of great help in formulating appropriate breeding strategy for genetic relationship of among the landraces of little millets. In present investigation collected 40 landraces of *P. sumatrense* selected from various district of Madhya Pradesh viz. Dindori, Chhindwara, Betul, Rewa. The genetic diversity investigation different millets genera was undertaken with Inter Simple Sequence Repeats (ISSR) markers high level of genetic variability among and within the different genera Dvorakova et al., (2015). M'Ribu and Hilu (1994) additionally gathered three accessions for *P. sumatrense* starting with India and other Panicum sp. from different Asian nations without any confirmation of a closer relationship amongst these 26 accessions utilizing molecular
markers, and morphologically variable (De Wet et al., 1983, Reddy et al., 1984) which is reflected by the high genetic diversity resolved by the RAPD analysis. Similarly, in present investigation, the 32 genotypes of P. sumatrense obtained from the region of India and evaluated genetic diversity by using out of 36 RAPD markers, high variations and 100% polymorphism among all genotypes. Molecular diversity in 7 landraces of little millet has been reported however it was also observed that the all landraces are genetically uniform and any observed diversity could be due to environmental variation Arunachalam et al., (2005). For this study, 40 landraces for P. sumatrense diverse districts for India with identify polymorphism utilizing ISSR marker.

Assessment of genetic variability among different landraces of little millet indicated the efficiency of ISSR markers in investigation genetic variability at molecular level and identification of desirable germplasm and its utilization for further breeding program. Such information may be useful for selecting the diverse parents and monitoring the genetic diversity periodically for improvement of little millets.

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