

**Theme: Life Sciences & Agricultural Sciences**

**Collection, identification and documentation of Cucurbitaceae members in Telangana state**

**Koppula Thirupathi and Md. Mustafa**

Plant Tissue Culture and Molecular Taxonomy Laboratory

Department of Botany, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana State- 506 009, India;

[thirupathikoppula90@gmail.com](mailto:thirupathikoppula90@gmail.com); [mustafarz67@gmail.com](mailto:mustafarz67@gmail.com)

Human race always depends on nature either directly or indirectly for food, clothes, shelter and medicine. Plants are the natural regulators maintain the atmosphere. Telangana is richly constituted with a wide variety of plants having high medicinal value. Cucurbitaceae or gourd family is of considerable economic importance as a source of diverse commodities like vegetables, fruits, edible seeds rich in oil and protein, edible and industrial seed oils, domestic utensils and drugs. There are large number of plant species, which can be used to fulfill nutritional requirement of growing population of the world. Exploration of natural resources and documentation of traditional knowledge of plants is necessary, but most of the plant species dioecious in nature only few are monoecious. Because of this reason identification of plant species is very difficult. In the present work we have been attempted to investigate, identify and document the Cucurbitaceae members of Telangana State. Accordingly 15 genera and 25 species are collected during the course among them 15 species are wild and 10 species are cultivated. All the collected species are under process of data basis in a systematic manner, Seed material (germplasm) has been preserved in our museum, Department of Botany, Kakatiya University, Warangal. Tissue culture work has been adopted for the conservation of rare and endemic cucurbits.