Letters to the Editor

Entomology for their keen interest and encouragement in this study.


R. RAJENDRAN.


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**A REPORT OF VIVIPARY IN BUCKWHEAT (FAGOPYRUM SP.)**

Buckwheat (Fagopyrum sp.) belongs to the family Polygonaceae and is cultivated as a main or subsidiary crop in various countries (Singh et al.3). In India, it is generally grown as a food crop in the temperate regions of Himayas and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu (Singh4). Apart from its importance as a food crop, it has been reported as one of the economical sources of rutin (Couch et al.5).

Seeds of several local collections of the two important species, *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench. and *F. tataricum* Gaertn., cultivated in Himachal Pradesh as rainy season crop, were sown in the third week of April, 1978 at the departmental experimental area, S. N. S. Hort. Complex, Solan (H.P.) in order to study the grain as well as rutin yield in different collections. The plants started flowering after 55-60 days and fruit ripening started after 100-130 days of sowing.

Some of the seeds in the collections of *F. esculentum* showed germination within the inflorescence, a well-known phenomenon referred to as vivipary (Fig. 1) and a characteristic feature of mangrove species. The phenomenon of vivipary in other plant species has also been reported by many workers (Stebbins7,6, Heslop-Harrison8, and Jain et al.8).

In the present investigation, usually ripe seeds brown black in colour, exhibited this phenomenon. However, a few unripe seeds, green in colour also showed the same. Different collections of *F. esculentum* displayed different percentage of viviparous seed germination (Table I). No such phenomenon could be observed in any collection of *F. tataricum*.

**Table I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of collection</th>
<th>% of seeds showing vivipary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1001</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1005</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1025</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1030</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1041</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1043</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Him. 1044</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since both of the species under study show indeterminate growth and as a result, many seeds ripen much before the harvesting is done. Thus the loss in yield in *F. esculentum* due to vivipary is quite obvious and this phenomenon may account for the low yield of *F. esculentum* as compared to *F. tataricum*.

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