

3. Methodology :

The tenure of this project is too short to explore the cucurbits. During the June 99 to Sept. 2000 field tours were arranged to collect the plant species from selected locations in the district. More than 25 specimens of cucurbits have been collected.

During survey, the data such as habit, flower, dimorphy, frequency of a distribution, occurrence, local names were noted. Collected specimens were dried by using blotting and newspapers. Mounted on herbarium sheets. Photographs were also taken. The specimens were maintained in herbarium of department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. (Plate-3)

All the cucurbits were identified and confirmed with the help of regional and national floras and available literature.

Germination studies were carried out by standard petriplate method by nicking the seeds and without nicking the seeds.

Further the germinated seeds were transplanted and the plantlets were transferred to soil culture.

From healthy plants of *Momordica dioica* and *Cucumis setosus*, stem and leaves were excised and used as explant. Explants were washed thoroughly under running tap water for 30 minutes, immersed in 5 % teepol (cleaning agent) for 5 minutes washed thoroughly with sterilized distilled water. Then kept in 0.1% mercuric chloride for 5 min. for surface sterilization. The sterilized explants were thoroughly washed 5 to 6 times with sterilized distilled water. Murashige and Skoog's (1962) medium (MS) was used single and in combination with hormones. The culture medium was autoclaved at 121°C for about 15 min. The sterilized explants were cultured under laminar air flow. The cultures were maintained at $25 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$, 16 hours photoperiod and 55% RH.

Plate: 3. A) Pungi Bhopala : *Lagenaria* Fruit from Ujalaiwadi.
B) *Melothria* fruits from Kathyani.

