

## 5. Conclusion :

1. *Coccinia indica* is found throughout the district.
2. *Melothria* species occurs throughout Maharashtra.
3. *Cucumis callosus* and *C. setosus* are restricted to very few localities.
4. Radhanagari, Gargoti and Chandoli regions are rich in cucurbits comparatively.

From recent cladistics of cucurbits (Shanta & Radhakrishnaiah, 2000) it is seen that the two taxa (*Zehneria* and *Dieaelospermum*) become diverged from one another on account of ellagic acid. The remaining taxa of the first bifurcation segregate into two groups, one with *Cucumis*, *Lagenaria*, *Bryonopsis*, *Benincasa*, *trichosanthes*, *Luffa*, *Sechium*, *Cucurbita*, *Melothria* and *Blastania*; the other with *Coccinia*, *Momordica* and *Citrullus* because of saponiniferous condition.

Further cucurbit explorations especially season wise, site wise would be rewarding, and species composition with other region will become meaningful.

5. New methods of regeneration of *Momordica dioica* and *Cucumis setosus* are developed in the present study for the conservation of the species.
6. Almost all cucurbits have medicinal properties and therefore requires more attention with respect to cultivation practices and scientific studies.

In India now a days number of cucurbits (endangered) are used in commercial trade. Hence this is just an effort made for Germplasm collection and conservation of few cucurbits of in and around Kolhapur district. Further it should be concentrated on monitoring of cucurbit populations.