

EVALUATION OF FOUR TYPES OF *SOLANUM VIARUM* DUNAL

The fruits of *Solanum viarum* Dunal is a rich source of solasodine, a glycoalkaloid used in medicinal preparations. This plant is found to grow well under Kerala conditions, but it has not gained much importance so far. The present study aims to find out a suitable variety giving higher yield under Kerala conditions.

Four types of *Solanum viarum* Dunal viz., Pusa 1, RRL (B) Y 14, RRL (Jorhat) and Glaxo type were compared for their yield and other biometric characters at the Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Research Station, Odakkali. The trial was laid out in RBD with five replications. The plot size was 4.5 x 4.5 m (gross). The seedlings were planted at 75 x 75 cm spacing during September 1983. The observations on plant height, number of branches per plant, number of berries per plant, weight of 100 dry berries, fresh berry yield per hectare and dry berry yield per hectare were taken. The first harvest was done in January and subsequent harvests in February and March 1984.

The trial was repeated in 1984 in a different site. The planting was done in November. All the observations were taken and two harvests done in March and April 1985.

There was no significant difference between the types for all the characters studied in both the years. The type RRL (B) Y 14 expressed maximum weight of 100 dry berries whereas the fresh berry yield was high for RRL (Jorhat) in both the years. Since the yield of dry berries is the most important character, the type RRL (B) Y 14 can be considered better as it showed high values for weight of 100 dry berries in both the years and dry berry yield in the second year.

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Table 1

Growth and yield characters of four types of *Solanum viarum* Dunal

Types	Height of the plant (cm)		No. of branches per plant		No. of berries per plant		Weight of 100 dry berries (g)		Fresh berry yield (kg/ha)		Dry berry yield (kg/ha)	
	1983-1984	1984-1985	1983-1984	1984-1985	1983-1984	1984-1985	1983-1984	1984-1985	1983-1984	1984-1985	1983-1984	1984-1985
Pusa 1	70.7	47.2	7.7	5.5	58.3	18.6	87.0	83.1	4505	858	877.3	215.3
RRL (B) Y 14	73.3	45.7	9.5	5.6	57.6	18.7	97.5	84.2	4700	883	966.4	238.0
RRL (Jorhat)	73.9	42.6	8.1	5.7	56.2	19.2	93.5	75.6	4805	1001	937.7	240.6
Glaxo type	68.4	43.8	7.1	5.7	42.0	20.5	93.6	75.8	3343	964	668.0	244.4