

## VARIATION IN MORPHOMETRIC CHARACTER OF WILD POMEGRANATE (*PUNICA GRANATUM* L.) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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**Abstract:** The present study was aimed to document the morphometric variability in Wild Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.)” was carried out at two sites namely Tatool (S<sub>1</sub>) and Narag (S<sub>2</sub>) in the Department of Forest Genetic Resources, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry Nauni, Solan (HP) during 2013-2014.. The phenological studies inclusive of phenophases, vegetative characters and reproductive characters observed earlier in Tatool (S<sub>1</sub>) followed by the second site: Narag (S<sub>2</sub>). Leaf bud swell was first observed in Tatool (S<sub>1</sub>) with the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February followed by Narag (S<sub>2</sub>) by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of February. Leaf bud burst was first observed in Tatool from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March followed by Narag from 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Leafing first appeared from 4<sup>th</sup> week of March at Tatool and from 5<sup>th</sup> week of March at Narag. There was significant variation observed in leaf morphometric characters within trees. Maximum values for leaf size and leaf area was observed for those leaves borne on lower position of trees in both the sites. Three different types of flowers were present namely hermaphrodite, male and intermediate flower. The reproductive bud appears on axillary and terminal position of the tree in cymose inflorescence. Anthesis of flowers was observed to take place between 10 am and 2pm. There were remarkable variation in different vegetative, reproductive, leaf morphometric and flower characteristics studied in the two sites which paved the way for further improvement programme in wild pomegranate.

**Keywords:** *Punica granatum* L., Variation, Morphometric characters, Phenophases

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