

# COMPARATIVE CYPSELAR FEATURES OF TWO SPECIES OF *TAGETES* (TAGETEAE-ASTERACEAE) AND THEIR TAXONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Bidyut Kumar Jana and Sobhan Kumar Mukherjee

Taxonomy and Biosystematics Laboratory, Department of Botany, University of Kalyani,  
Kalyani-741235, Nadia, West Bengal, India.

Email: janabotanytaxonomy@gmail.com, sobhankr@gmail.com

**Abstract :** Morphological and anatomical studies of cypselas in *Tagetes lucida* L. and *Tagetes tenuifolia* L. have been carried out in details with the help of light microscope. Some morphological features like cypselar surface hairs, carpopodium, detachment area, pappus bristles have potential value for characterization. Anatomically, phytomelanin layer is present in the mesocarpic region and which is continuous in case of *Tagetes tenuifolia* and discontinuous in case of *Tagetes lucida*. In the cypselas of *Tagetes lucida*, testa and endosperm layers are uniseriately arranged, whereas in *Tagetes tenuifolia*, testal layer is uniseriately arranged but endosperm layer is biseriately arranged. Based on the above mentioned morpho-anatomical features, an artificial key to the studied taxa has been constructed.

**Keywords:** Diacritical features; tageteae; asteraceae

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