

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERUTILIZATION OF *COCCINIA GRANDIS* AND *LUFFA ACTANGULA* IN JAMMU

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Abstracts: Cucurbitaceae though known world-wide on account of having broadly grown taxa such as *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber), *Citrullus lanatus* (water melon) and *Cucumis melo* (melon) that are consumed on a large scale (Jeffrey 1980), it also contains some lesser known species that are rich in minerals and vitamins. *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt (syn. *C. indica*) and *Luffa actangula* (L.) Roxb. are the two such species (Kalloo and Bergh 1993; Rai *et al.* 2008). These provide prized vegetables, have the ability to grow in habitats that are generally inhospitable to other plants and are not taken by stray animals on account of having herbivory-deterrent compounds. Despite having potential to supplement world's food / medicinal basket, these have remained underutilized particularly in Jammu region. Present communication describes the factors responsible for less utilization of *C. grandis* (syn. *C. indica*) and *L. actangula* in Jammu (Sharma and Kachroo 1981).

Keywords: *Coccinia grandis*, *Luffa actangula*, Jammu

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