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Diversity for shell strength in the natural population of walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) in the Kashmir valley

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation entitled diversity for shell strength in the natural population of walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) in the Kashmir valley was carried out in order to document the available genetic variability in walnut germplasm and to select elite walnut genotypes possessing superior attributes and quality traits. During the survey, data was recorded on one hundred fifty two (152) walnut trees growing in different areas of Kashmir valley. Remarkable variability was observed in seedling walnut trees for different morphological, nut and kernel characters. Similarly, variations were also reported for other characters viz., tree vigour, growth habit, branching habit, leaflet shape, shoot colour, nut shape, shell texture, shell colour, shell seal, shell strength, shell integrity, kernel shrivel and kernel colour. Studies on shell strength revealed substantial variability among the seedling raised walnuts genotypes in Kashmir valley revealed that shell strength of walnut revealed that shell strength of walnut genotypes under study varied from papery to strong. Ten genotypes (6.58%) were found having papery shell, 41 genotypes (26.98%) had weak shell strength, 76 genotypes (50.00%) possessed intermediate shell strength and 25 genotypes (16.44%) were found to have strong shell strengthnut genotypes under the present study.

KEY WORDS : Walnut, Diversity, Shell seal

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