SEM observations on the seed coat structure of market samples of Atmagupta [*Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC.]

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SUMMARY

Adulteration in market samples is one of the greatest drawbacks in promotion of herbal products from India. Plant samples in the market are stored under undesirable conditions over the years and often contain a mixture of other plant species, thus adversely affecting their bioefficacy. Market samples of 'Atmagupta' an Indian Ayurvedic and Siddha drug contain seeds of seven taxa. Seed morphology standards could help in identification where a seed may look similar in external appearance. SEM study is of great help in distinguishing the seeds based on their seed coat diagnostic characters to differentiate seed of *Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC.*,* the genuine, with that other taxa adulterant or substitutes.

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