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Research Paper

Genetic variability in African marigold (*Tagetes erecta* L.)

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ABSTRACT

To assess the genetic variability present in 30 germplasm collected from different parts of Tamil Nadu, the experiment was conducted in a Randomized Block Design with three replications in a plot size of 2 x 2m^2. The plants were transplanted at spacing of 40 cm row to row and with in row 30 cm apart. The coefficients of variation both at genotypic and phenotypic levels were maximum for number of flowers per plant, while minimum for dry matter production. Heritability estimates for all the characters were generally very high. High heritability along with high genetic advance as per cent of mean was observed for number of flowers per plant. Flower yield per plant and number of laterals per plant was due to additive gene effects thus suggesting that selection for these characters would be very effective.

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