

EVALUATION OF BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF OKRA GERMPLASM FOR RESISTANCE AGAINST JASSIDS, *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* (ISHIDA)

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Abstract—Biochemical components of okra germplasm were assessed for resistance or susceptibility to the leafhopper, *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* (Ishida) at All India Coordinated Research Project on Vegetable Crops, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Bhubaneswar during three consecutive seasons of *khariif*, 2018, summer, 2019 and *khariif*, 2019. The results revealed that the total sugar, reducing sugar, total protein, total phenol and total chlorophyll content in different okra germplasm varied from 2.84 % to 5.51 %, 0.28 % to 0.56 %, 0.75 to 2.10 mg/g, 0.52 to 1.35 mg/g and 1.04 to 2.29 mg/g, respectively. The okra germplasm BBSR-37, BBSR-36, Pusa A-4, BBSR-57, BBSR-3 and BBSR-4 were found to be resistant to leafhopper, with BBSR-4 being moderately resistant, BBSR-09-6 susceptible besides Pusa Sawani and BBSR-53 being highly susceptible.

INTRODUCTION

Okra [*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench] is a member of Malvaceae family, is a widely grown vegetable crop, cultivated in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. It is commonly known as 'Bhendi' or 'Ladies finger' and is one of the most widespread and commercially grown vegetables in tropical countries (Singh *et al.*, 2014; Sandhi *et al.*, 2017). Okra cultivation covers 5.13 lakh hectares (ha) in India, with a production of 61.70 lakh metric tonnes (MT) and a productivity of 12.03 MT/ha. Okra is grown on 0.64 lakh ha in Odisha, with a yield of 5.66 lakh MT and a productivity of 8.85 MT/ha (Horticultural Statistics at a Glance, 2018).

As many as 72 pest species attacks okra crop from germination to harvest. The sucking pest complex of okra includes leafhopper (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula* Ishida), aphid (*Aphis gossypii* Glover), whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius) and mite (*Tetranychus cinnabarinus* Boisduval). The borer complex comprising of shoot and fruit borers *viz.*,

Earias vittella (Fabricius), *Earias insulana* (Boisduval) and *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hubner) are known to cause severe damage to the crop (Rao and Rajendran, 2003). Okra production is inhibited by a variety of insect pests, but jassid, *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* (Ishida) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), is one of the most important insect pests on this crop, severely limiting its cultivation (Singh and Joshi, 2004).

The nymphs and adults suck the plant sap from lower surface of the leaves resulting in yellowing, browning, bronzing, cupping, withering and necrosis of leaves and ultimately the leaves shed prematurely. The phytotoxic symptoms caused due to their infestation is known as "hopper burn" (Bindra and Mahal, 1981; Mahal *et al.*, 1993; Mahal *et al.*, 1994). Leafhopper alone had reduced okra fruit yield by 59.79 % (Atwal and Singh, 1990). The losses in okra yield due to jassids have been reported to vary from 50.00 – 52.00 % (Rawat and Sahu, 1973), 40.00 – 56.00 % (Krishnaiah, 1980), 40.00 – 60.00 % (Narke and Suryawanshi, 1987) and 32.06 – 40.84 %

(Singh and Brar, 1994). There is a reduction of 49.80 and 45.10 % height and number of leaves respectively, due to the attack of leafhopper (Rawat and Sahu, 1973).

Insecticides have become the most common choice of pest control among the various pest management strategies. However, they are detrimental to the environment and financially uneconomical, leading to environmental pollution. Plants contain a variety of compounds that are primarily used to defend themselves against natural enemies. Developing jassid resistance varieties is the most logical solution to the jassid problem. Host plant resistance is an efficient, cost-effective, and safe way to protect plants from jassid (Devi *et al.*, 2018). In integrated pest management, varietal tolerance is a key technique. A resistant variety assists in insect species suppression thus having the least amount of damage to the crop ecosystem. It also eliminates the need for toxic pesticides that cause environmental pollution (Sandhi *et al.*, 2017). Plants with a variety of biophysical and biochemical characteristics play an important role in providing resistance to a variety of insect pests (Halder *et al.*, 2016; Halder and Srinivasan, 2011). Even a low level of tolerance in plants has a dramatic effect, which in fact reduces the need of insecticides. Based on the facts mentioned above, the present research was carried out to evaluate the chemical components of okra germplasm having different degrees of resistance and susceptibility with the population of jassids.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was conducted at the All India Coordinated Research Project on Vegetable Crops, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology and the Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Bhubaneswar, during *kharif*, 2019. The experiment was conducted in randomized block design with ten treatments and three replications. The treatments comprised of ten okra germplasm containing five resistant (BBSR-37, BBSR-36, BBSR-57, BBSR-47 and BBSR-3), one moderately resistant (BBSR-4), one moderately susceptible (BBSR-09-6) and one susceptible (BBSR-53) genotype, selected based on two year field trial with a resistant and a susceptible check (Pusa A-4 and Pusa Sawani, respectively).

The polybags of 1' diameter were used for the study and they were filled with 6 kg mixture of soil

and FYM in the ratio of 3:1. Recommended dose of fertilizers were applied at the time of sowing. Sowing was done on last week of September during *kharif*, 2019. Two seeds per polythene bag were sown and the bags were labelled properly. The crop was kept free from any insecticide application. The number of jassid nymph and adult were counted from top, middle and bottom canopy of the each germplasm. Total number of jassids present on the lower as well as upper surfaces of the leaf was noted down. The observations were recorded during early morning hours throughout the crop season at weekly intervals. At peak jassid infestation period (49 – 63 DAS) the biochemical attributes *viz.*, total sugars, reducing sugars, total phenol, total protein and total chlorophyll were estimated according to the standard procedures. The amount of total sugars present in the okra leaf sample was estimated by Anthrone method (Hedge and Hofreiter, 1962; Sadasivam and Manickam, 1992). The reducing sugar content was determined by following Nelson-Somogyi method (Somogyi, 1952). The protein content of the okra leaf sample was quantified as per the protocol given by Lowry *et al.* (1951). The quantity of phenol present in the okra leaf sample was estimated by following the method of Bray and Thorpe (1954). The chlorophyll content in leaf sample was estimated as per the procedure given by Arnon (1941).

The data obtained on jassid population and various biochemical attributes of okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019 were subjected to square root transformations wherever required and were analysed by randomized block design procedure using OPSTAT software. F test was conducted to test the significance of variations in the treatments. The standard error mean [SE (m) ±] and critical difference (CD) at 5 % level of significance were also calculated following the procedure given by Gomez and Gomez (1984).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Jassid population

The mean jassid population of okra germplasm at weekly intervals during *kharif*, 2019 was presented in Table 1. Jassid activity peaks between 49 and 63 DAS and steadily declines by the end of the crop season. At 56 DAS, the least jassid population was recorded on okra germplasm BBSR-37 (5.78 jassids/leaf), which was *at par* with Pusa A-4 (6.00 jassids/

leaf), followed by BBSR-36 (6.33 jassids/leaf) and BBSR-57 (6.56 jassids/leaf). At 56 DAS, the highest jassid population was recorded on okra germplasm Pusa Sawani (17.89 jassids/leaf), which was *at par* with BBSR-53 (17.67 jassids/leaf) and differed significantly with BBSR-09-6 (14.11 jassids/leaf). The okra germplasm BBSR-47, BBSR-3 and BBSR-4 were observed with moderate number of jassids with 6.89, 7.11 and 10.00 jassids per leaf, respectively.

The mean jassid population during *kharif*, 2019 was ranged between 3.08 and 9.24 jassids per leaf. The least jassid population was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-37 (3.08 jassids/leaf), which was followed by Pusa A-4 (3.39 jassids/leaf), BBSR-36 (3.42 jassids/leaf), BBSR-57 (3.56 jassids/leaf) and BBSR-47 (3.81 jassids/leaf). The moderate level of jassid population were noticed on okra germplasm BBSR-3 (4.06 jassids/leaf) and BBSR-4 (5.11 jassids/leaf). The highest mean jassid population was recorded on okra germplasm BBSR-53 (9.24 jassids/leaf), which was followed by Pusa Sawani (9.20 jassids/leaf) and BBSR-09-6 (6.85 jassids/leaf). These results are in confirmation with the findings of Ramachandra (2018), who reported 3.75 to 10.33 jassids per leaf. Similar results were observed by Srasvan (2017), who observed 4.34 jassids per leaf

on resistant genotype IC-282280 and 12.36 jassids per leaf on susceptible genotype Pusa Sawani.

Biochemical parameters

The data of biochemical parameters in different okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019 was presented in Table 1.

Total sugars

The total sugar content in selected okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019 was ranged from 2.84 % to 5.51 %. The lowest total sugar content was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-53 with sugar content of 2.84 %, which was *at par* with BBSR-09-6 (2.93 %).

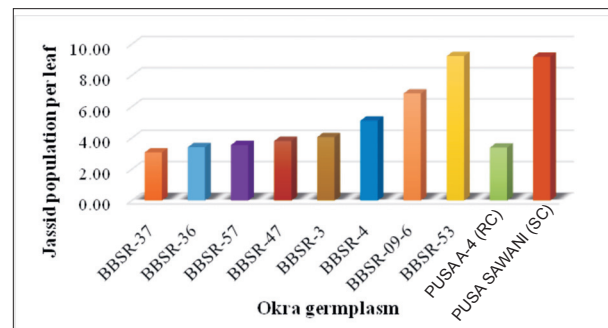


Fig. 1. Mean jassid population of different okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019

Table 1. Mean jassid population on okra germplasm at weekly intervals during *kharif*, 2019

Treat- ments	Germplasm	Jassid population per leaf at different days after sowing												Mean
		7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84	
T ₁	BBSR-37	0.00 (1.00)	0.22 (1.11)	0.44 (1.20)	1.22 (1.49)	2.11 (1.76)	3.89 (2.21)	5.33 (2.52)	5.78 (2.60)	5.56 (2.56)	4.89 (2.43)	4.11 (2.26)	3.44 (2.11)	3.08 (2.02)
T ₂	BBSR-36	0.00 (1.00)	0.22 (1.11)	0.56 (1.25)	1.33 (1.53)	2.44 (1.86)	4.44 (2.33)	5.89 (2.62)	6.33 (2.71)	5.89 (2.62)	5.33 (2.52)	4.56 (2.36)	4.00 (2.24)	3.42 (2.10)
T ₃	BBSR-57	0.00 (1.00)	0.33 (1.15)	0.78 (1.33)	1.33 (1.53)	3.00 (2.00)	4.56 (2.36)	6.00 (2.65)	6.56 (2.75)	6.00 (2.65)	5.11 (2.47)	4.78 (2.40)	4.22 (2.29)	3.56 (2.13)
T ₄	BBSR-47	0.00 (1.00)	0.33 (1.15)	0.78 (1.33)	1.56 (1.60)	3.44 (2.11)	4.78 (2.40)	6.33 (2.71)	6.89 (2.81)	6.56 (2.75)	5.56 (2.56)	5.11 (2.47)	4.44 (2.33)	3.81 (2.19)
T ₅	BBSR-3	0.00 (1.00)	0.44 (1.20)	0.89 (1.37)	1.67 (1.63)	3.56 (2.13)	5.22 (2.49)	6.78 (2.79)	7.11 (2.85)	7.00 (2.83)	6.11 (2.67)	5.44 (2.54)	4.56 (2.36)	4.06 (2.25)
T ₆	BBSR-4	0.00 (1.00)	0.44 (1.20)	1.22 (1.49)	1.78 (1.67)	4.33 (2.31)	6.56 (2.75)	8.89 (3.14)	10.00 (3.32)	9.00 (3.16)	7.33 (2.89)	6.56 (2.75)	5.22 (2.49)	5.11 (2.47)
T ₇	BBSR-09-6	0.00 (1.00)	0.67 (1.29)	1.44 (1.56)	2.22 (1.80)	5.11 (2.47)	8.44 (3.07)	12.00 (3.61)	14.11 (3.89)	12.22 (3.64)	10.11 (3.33)	8.89 (3.14)	7.00 (2.83)	6.85 (2.80)
T ₈	BBSR-53	0.00 (1.00)	1.56 (1.60)	2.56 (1.89)	3.78 (2.19)	7.22 (2.87)	10.22 (3.35)	14.11 (3.89)	17.67 (4.32)	16.11 (4.14)	15.00 (4.00)	13.11 (3.76)	9.56 (3.25)	9.24 (3.20)
T ₉	PUSA-A4 (RC)	0.00 (1.00)	0.22 (1.11)	0.56 (1.25)	1.33 (1.53)	2.67 (1.91)	4.33 (2.31)	5.89 (2.62)	6.00 (2.65)	5.78 (2.60)	5.33 (2.52)	4.44 (2.33)	4.11 (2.26)	3.39 (2.09)
T ₁₀	PUSA SAWANI (SC)	0.00 (1.00)	1.67 (1.63)	2.44 (1.86)	3.67 (2.16)	7.00 (2.83)	9.11 (3.18)	15.11 (4.01)	17.89 (4.35)	16.22 (4.15)	15.33 (4.04)	12.78 (3.71)	9.22 (3.20)	9.20 (3.19)
	SE(m) ±	0.000	0.048	0.084	0.060	0.052	0.048	0.080	0.069	0.066	0.070	0.077	0.080	
	CD (5 %)	NS	0.14	0.25	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.24	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.23	0.24	

Figures in parentheses are square root transformed values $\sqrt{(x+1)}$, RC – Resistant check, SC – Susceptible check

The highest total sugar content was noticed on okra germplasm BBSR-37 (5.51 %), which was *at par* with Pusa A-4 (5.40 %) and differed significantly with BBSR-36 (4.82 %). The moderate level of total sugar content was recorded on Pusa Sawani (3.02 %), BBSR-4 (3.11 %), BBSR-47 (3.30 %), BBSR-3 (3.38 %) and BBSR-57 (4.01 %). These results are similar to the findings of previous researchers. The total sugar content in okra genotypes ranged from 2.47 % in AKOV-107-04 to 3.82 % in AKOV-106 (Mudgalkar *et al.*, 2015); 2.31 % in GAO-5 to 2.90 % in Glory (Ranmalbhai, 2014); 3.00 % in ST-2 to 4.60 % in HRB-128-1-1 (Lokesh, 2002); 1.93 mg/g in IC-45800 to 4.06 mg/g in OK-9 (Kadu, 2018). Nain and Rathee (2017) revealed that total sugar content was observed to be less in the highly susceptible okra variety HBT-6-15-3-7 (1.93 %) and higher in the least susceptible variety HB-02-14-1-1 (3.30 %). Higher the sugar content in the genotype, lower the jassid attack as high total sugars acts as phagodeterrent.

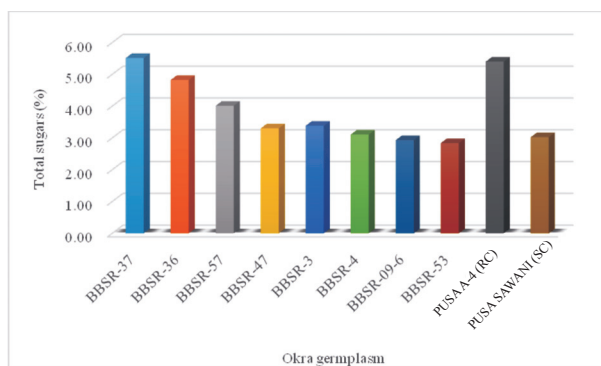


Fig. 2. Total sugar content in different okra germplasm during kharif, 2019

Reducing sugars

The reducing sugar content in selected okra germplasm during kharif, 2019 was ranged between 0.28 % and 0.87 % in pot culture experiment. The lowest reducing sugar content was noticed on okra germplasm BBSR-36 (0.28 %), which differ significantly with BBSR-37 (0.33 %), Pusa A-4 (0.34 %), BBSR-57 (0.35 %) and BBSR-47 (0.38 %). The moderate level of reducing sugar content was registered on okra germplasm BBSR-3 (0.43 %) and BBSR-4 (0.51 %). The highest reducing sugar content was observed on okra germplasm Pusa Sawani with reducing sugar content of 0.87 %, which was *at par* with BBSR-53 (0.86 %), differed significantly with BBSR-09-6 (0.64 %). The results are in agreement with those of Ranmalbhai (2014), who observed the reducing sugar content between 0.44 % in GAO-5 and 0.55 % in both Glory and Arka Anamika. Similarly 0.56 mg/g in OK-7 to 2.00 mg/g in IC-282288 (Kadu, 2018). The susceptible genotypes observed maximum reducing sugar content as compared to resistant genotypes. The reducing sugars act as phagostimulant for the leafhopper population (Kadu, 2018; Sandhi *et al.*, 2017).

Total protein

The data revealed that the protein content of selected okra germplasm during kharif, 2019 was ranged between 0.75 and 2.10 mg/g sample. The lowest protein content was recorded on okra germplasm BBSR-37 with 0.75 mg/g sample, which differed significantly with Pusa A-4 (0.80 mg/g), followed by BBSR-36 (0.86 mg/g), BBSR-57 (0.93 mg/g)

Table 2. Biochemical basis of resistance in okra against jassids during kharif, 2019

Treatments	Germplasm	Total sugars (%)	Reducing sugars (%)	Total protein (mg/g)	Total phenol (mg/g)	Total chlorophyll (mg/g)
T ₁	BBSR-37	5.51	0.33	0.75	1.35	1.13
T ₂	BBSR-36	4.82	0.28	0.86	1.27	1.04
T ₃	BBSR-57	4.01	0.35	0.93	1.11	1.16
T ₄	BBSR-47	3.30	0.38	0.98	1.01	1.22
T ₅	BBSR-3	3.38	0.43	0.94	1.00	1.24
T ₆	BBSR-4	3.11	0.51	1.25	0.88	1.41
T ₇	BBSR-09-6	2.93	0.64	1.56	0.71	1.89
T ₈	BBSR-53	2.84	0.86	2.06	0.52	2.22
T ₉	PUSA-A4 (RC)	5.40	0.34	0.80	1.09	1.15
T ₁₀	PUSA SAWANI (SC)	3.02	0.87	2.10	0.59	2.29
	SE(m) ±	0.035	0.005	0.010	0.017	0.027
	CD (5 %)	0.11	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.08

RC – Resistant check, SC – Susceptible check

g) and BBSR-3 (0.94 mg/g). The highest protein content was recorded on okra germplasm Pusa Sawani with 2.10 mg/g sample, which differed significantly with BBSR-53 (2.06 mg/g), followed by BBSR-09-6 (1.56 mg/g). The moderate level of protein content was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-47 (0.98 mg/g) and BBSR-4 (1.25 mg/g). Similar findings were obtained by Kadu (2018), who reported that the protein content of 0.50 mg/g in OK-7 to 2.25 mg/g in IC-140906 in the leaves of okra germplasm. Ranmalbhai (2014) reported that the protein content of 1.64 % in Ankur-40 to 1.97 % in Nirmala-303. The susceptible genotypes observed with higher amount of protein content as compared to resistant genotypes (Lokesh, 2002; Sreedevi, 2011; Kadu, 2018).

Total phenol

The total phenol content of selected okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019 was ranged between 0.52 and 1.35 mg/g sample. The lowest phenol content was noticed on okra germplasm BBSR-53 with 0.52 mg/g sample, which was *at par* with Pusa Sawani (0.59 mg/g) and differed significantly with BBSR-09-6 (0.71 mg/g). The highest phenol content was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-37 with 1.35 mg/g sample, which differed significantly with BBSR-36 (1.27 mg/g), followed by BBSR-57 (1.11 mg/g). The moderate level of phenol content was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-4 (0.88 mg/g), BBSR-3 (1.00 mg/g), BBSR-47 (1.01 mg/g) and Pusa A-4 (1.09 mg/g). The phenol content in the leaves of okra genotypes varied between 1.36 mg/g in IC-140906 and 5.78 mg/g in OK-9 (Kadu, 2018); 1.33 mg/g in Pusa Sawani to 1.58 mg/g in *Abelmoschus moschatus* (Sandhi *et al.*, 2017); 0.75 mg/g in IIVR-11 to 1.78 mg/g in VRO-3 (Srasvan, 2017); 0.42 mg/g in SB-6 to 0.75 mg/g in VROB-181 (Halder *et al.*, 2016). Resistant okra varieties had the highest phenol

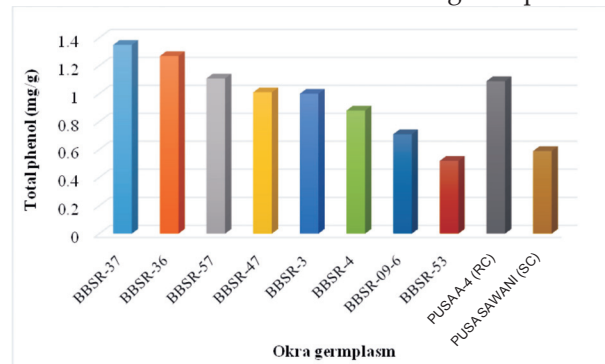


Fig. 3. Total phenol content in different okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019

content, whereas the susceptible varieties recorded least phenol content. This might be due to phenols act as antifeedant to insect herbivores (Kadu, 2018, Srasvan, 2017 and Sreedevi, 2011). Phenolics in a very large quantity could have direct toxicity to the insect (Halder *et al.*, 2016).

Total chlorophyll

The total chlorophyll content on selected okra germplasm during *kharif*, 2019 was ranged between 1.04 and 2.29 mg/g sample. The data showed that the maximum chlorophyll content was observed on okra germplasm Pusa Sawani (2.29 mg/g sample), which was *at par* with BBSR-53 (2.22 mg/g), differed significantly with germplasm BBSR-09-6 (1.89 mg/g) and BBSR-4 (1.41 mg/g). The minimum chlorophyll content was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-36 with 1.04 mg/g sample, which was *at par* with BBSR-37 (1.13 mg/g) and differed significantly with Pusa A-4 (1.15 mg/g). The moderate level of total chlorophyll was observed on okra germplasm BBSR-57 (1.16 mg/g), followed by BBSR-47 (1.22 mg/g) and BBSR-3 (1.24 mg/g). The present results are in confirmation with the findings of Srasvan (2017), who revealed that the total chlorophyll content varied between 0.70 mg/g in VRO-3 and 1.15 mg/g in IC-282280 in the leaves of okra genotypes. Ranmalbhai (2014) also reported that the total chlorophyll content ranged from 0.17 mg/g in IC-48948 to 0.54 mg/g in Narendra and 1.17 mg/g in Glory to 1.51 mg/g in GAO-5.

CONCLUSION

The research concluded that highest total sugars and maximum phenol content imparts resistance into the okra germplasm, whereas highest reducing sugars, maximum protein content and excess chlorophyll content were responsible for susceptibility. The okra germplasm BBSR-37, BBSR-36, Pusa A-4, BBSR-57, BBSR-3 and BBSR-4 were found to be resistant to leafhopper, with BBSR-4 being moderately resistant, BBSR-09-6 susceptible besides Pusa Sawani and BBSR-53 being highly susceptible. These germplasm were identified to be a source of leafhopper resistance and could be used in breeding programmes and IPM strategies. Resistance cultivars provide a better control of insect pests, but do not give complete protection to the crops from the pests. Therefore, resistance cultivars should be used in combination with other methods of pest control to achieve sustainable pest

management. Resistant variety is a safe, economical and long lasting alternative method of pest control.

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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

Yogesh Kumar, H.D. Data collection, biochemical analysis and manuscript preparation; Jayaraj Padhi: Drafting the manuscript and critical review of the article; Meenu Kumari: Biochemical analysis; Gouri Shankar Sahu: Providing okra germplasm; Ladu Kishore Rath: Critical revision of the article.

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