

### Original Research Article

## Study of Genetic diversity in Indian Barnyard millet genetic resources [*Echinochloa frumentacea* (L.)]

### ABSTRACT

Sixty four Indian barnyard millet genetic resources were studied to assess the extent of genetic divergence for 18 quantitative traits using Mahalanobis  $D^2$  [Statistic](#). Based on Tocher's method, the entire genetic [material](#) were separated into eight distinct and non-overlapping clusters suggesting availability of genetic diversity. Cluster I has highest number of accessions (57) and the remaining were mono genotypic clusters II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII containing only one accession each indicating high degree of heterogeneity among the genotypes. The widest inter-cluster distance was recorded between clusters IV and VII. Therefore, it [is](#) concluded that the genotypes to these clusters has to be intercrossed in order to create more diversity and improving grain yield in barnyard millet. The trait, grain yield per plant and panicle weight contributed maximum towards total divergence has scope of crop improvement through those [traits](#).

Key words:  $D^2$  Statistic, Genetic diversity, [genetic resource](#) -and Indian barnyard millet.

**Comment [M1]:** Where and when did the study conducted. It should be indicated to be clear for the reader without reading methodology part

**Comment [M2]:** Materials

**Comment [M3]:** What do you recommend to be considered in future by policy makers/ researchers based on your conclusion

### INTRODUCTION

Barnyard millet serves as dual purpose for feed and fodder [crop](#). It is mainly grown in India, China, Japan, and Korea. It is the fourth most produced minor millet, providing food security to many poor people across the world. Globally, India is the biggest producer of barnyard millet, both in terms of area (0.146 m ha<sup>-1</sup>) and production (0.147 mt) with average productivity of 1034 kg/ha during the last 3 years ([IIMR, 2018](#)).

The major barnyard millet producing states in India are Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh,

**Comment [M4]:** Reference (s)

**Comment [M5]:** Absent in reference list

Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and North east region of India. The cultivated species of barnyard millet viz., Indian barnyard millet (*Echinochloa frumentacea*) and second Japanese barnyard millet (*Echinochloa esculenta*).

**Comment [M6]:** Reference(s)?

**Comment [M7]:** Please can you state at least a paragraph describing about genetic diversity studied before. Here you can use worldwide or Indian research findings

Now a days the crop gained importance due to its rich nutritional profile and high dietary fibre content. Watanable (1999) stated that the importance of barnyard millet has increased due to its highly rich nutritious grains and presence of strong antioxidative compounds. The barnyard millet contains 10.5% protein, 3.6% fat, 68.8% carbohydrate and 398 kcal/100 g energy. The total dietary fiber content was high (12.6%) including soluble (4.2%) and insoluble (8.4%) fractions. Indian barnyard millet contains between 51.5% to 59.5% starch. The genetic divergence studies enable to assess the extent of genetic diversity prevalent in the genetic resources utilized for study.

**Comment [M8]:** Absent in reference list

**Comment [M9]:** What is your research gap?

**Comment [M10]:** Reference(s)?

**Comment [M11]:** The introduction part is too short.

## Material and Methods

Sixty four genetic resources of Indian barnyard millet were evaluated during *kharif*, 2020 in a lattice square design, replicated twice at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Nandyal. The details of 64 genotypes are given in the annexure I. Data was collected on five randomly selected plants of each genotypes per replication for 18 quantitative traits like Days to 50% flowering, basal tillers, Days to maturity, Peduncle length (cm), flag leaf blade length(cm), flag leaf blade width(cm), Plant height (cm), Panicle length (cm), 1000 seed weight (gm), Panicle weight /plant (gm), Harvest Index(%), Lower raceme length (cm), Grain yield/plant (gm), Phosphorus, Calcium, Iron, Zinc mg/100g, Protein %. The analysis was done through software - WINDOWSTAT 9.2 version.

**Comment [M12]:** Indicate it on the abstract part

**Comment [M13]:** According to whom?  
At least refer the previous works

**Comment [M14]:**  
What was your study/experimental design?  
What was your sampling method?  
Statistical analysis method used ?  
For example you have used ANOVA . indicate it here?  
Please indicate separately

## Results and Discussion

The ANOVA (Table 1) revealed significant differences among the genetic material for all the traits studied indicating considerable extent of variability in the germplasm accessions, which could be used in further breeding programmes. Based on relative magnitude of  $D^2$  values, 64 genotypes were grouped into eight distinct and non-overlapping clusters (Table 2, Fig 1). Cluster I has highest number of accessions (57) and the others were mono genotypic clusters II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII containing only one accession each indicating high degree of heterogeneity among the genotypes. The  $D^2$  values of eight clusters are presented in the Table 3 and Fig 2. The intra-cluster distances were lower than the inter-cluster distances indicating the presence of widest genetic diversity between the clusters rather than within the clusters. The intra cluster distance (0) observed in clusters II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII indicated the close resemblance between the germplasm accessions present in that cluster. Therefore, selection of parents which occupying in the same cluster may not be considered effective as it lacks diversity (Kumar et al. (2010). Inter-cluster distance values varied from 62.03 (cluster IV and cluster VI) to 401.29 (cluster VI and cluster VII). HenceHence, the germplasm accessions between cluster IV (TNEf-216, TNEf-202, TNEf-215) and cluster VII TNEf-218 has high degree of genetic diversity as they possessing maximum inter cluster distance between cluster VI and VII. This genotypes can be utilized under for hybridization programme for obtaining superior segregants. Similar finding were reported by Brunda et al. (2015), Devaliya et al. (2017), Mahanthesha et al. (2017b) and Amarnath et al. (2019).

**Comment [M15]:** Absent in reference lists

**Comment [M16]:** Why b ? is it two manuscript published and cited here?

Cluster means for 18 traits per cluster were presented in Table 4. The clusters formed were distinct as maximum variation was observed in the clusters for the characters studied. The cluster I, observed maximum for protein content (8.7). Cluster II has maximum values for panicle length (25.7), lower raceme length (6), phosphorus content (284 mg) and iron content (18.3 mg). Cluster III has maximum panicle length (29.1). The mean for grain yield per plant (12.9) and zinc content (56.5) recorded highest in cluster V. The highest mean for days to 50% flowering (72.5), flag leaf blade width (2.5), plant height (122.1) and harvest index (34.8) are recorded in cluster VI. Cluster VII reported maximum values for peduncle length (23.9), 1000 seed weight (3.65), panicle weight (14.9), calcium content (22.7) and desired means for days to 50% flowering (41), and plant height (90.9) and days to maturity (81.0). Basal tillers (3.9) recorded highest mean in cluster VIII. The least values for days to 50% flowering (41), days to maturity (81) i.e earliness were reported in Cluster VII.

The result shows that no cluster has at least one genotype with all desirable characters, so the direct selection of genotype is not possible for immediate use. Therefore, the genotypes from divergent cluster has to be selected for hybridization programme for combining all characters. Similar reports were recorded by Murugan & Nirmalakumari (2006) and kavya (2016).

The relative contribution of various plant traits towards diversity are presented in the (Table 5 and Fig 3). All the characters studied, out them the trait grain yield per plant contributed maximum (16.6%) towards genetic diversity and next by panicle weight (15.7%) indicating that these traits can be used for the genetic improvement programme.

**Comment [M17]:** Absent in reference list

**Comment [M18]:** Absent in reference list

Similar findings were published by Kumari and Singh (2015), Prabu *et al.* (2020), Manimekalai *et al.* (2018) and Mahanthesha *et al.* (2017) for grain yield / plant.

**Comment [M19]:** Absent in reference list

**Comment [M20]:** Why b?

**Formatted:** Highlight

The canonical root analysis or principal component analysis (PCA) was used to verify the clustering pattern obtained by Mahalanobis D<sup>2</sup> statistic. For 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions, canonical root analysis was carried out as per the procedure outlined by Rao (1952). Seven canonical roots accounted for 75.9 per cent of total divergence (Table 6). The first, second, third and fourth roots accounted for 20.58, 15.20, 10.46, and 9.7 per cent respectively to total variability. The remaining canonical roots viz., fifth, sixth and seventh contributed 8.16, 6.49 and 5.2 per cent respectively towards the total variability. The mean values of canonical variates for three roots X, Y and Z were furnished in Table 7. Two dimensional (2D) and Three dimensional (3D) picture was constructed by plotting the mean values of vectors as in Fig 4. and Fig 5. The amount of contribution of different traits towards canonical vectors total divergence was presented in Table 8.

In the vector Z1, traits contributing towards total divergence positively were Days to 50% flowering (0.405), flag leaf blade length (0.111), flag leaf blade width (0.234), plant height (0.311), panicle length (0.219), harvest index (0.393) and protein (0.189) while the rest of the characters contributed negatively to the total diversity.

**Comment [M21]:** For vector z1-z7 can you compare your findings with others study? Or can you justify the findings And at list use two or more previous works

For the vector Z2, days to 50% flowering (0.143), basal tillers (0.206), peduncle length (0.276), flag leaf blade width (0.01766), plant height (0.0339), panicle length (0.227), panicle weight per plant (0.225), lower raceme length (0.466), phosphorus (0.185) and iron (0.229) contributed positively to the genetic diversity. While the traits

viz., days to maturity, flag leaf blade length, 1000 grain weight, harvest index, grain yield / plant calcium, zinc and protein had contributed negatively to the diversity.

In the vector Z3, the traits viz., days to 50% flowering (0.345), peduncle length (0.139), flag leaf blade width (0.049), panicle weight per plant (0.187), harvest index (0.086), grain yield per plant (0.039), phosphorus (0.437) and zinc (0.172) had contributed positively to diversity. While rest of the characters showed negative contribution towards divergence.

In the vector Z4, the traits viz., days to 50% flowering (0.026), days to maturity (0.006), flag leaf blade width (0.487), panicle length (0.236), 1000 seed weight (0.391), lower raceme length (0.016), grain yield per plant (0.533), iron (0.008), zinc (0.053) and protein (0.075) had contributed positively to diversity. While rest of the characters showed negative contribution towards divergence.

For the vector Z5, the traits contributed towards total divergence were days to 50% flowering (0.014), peduncle length (0.633), flag leaf blade length (0.301), 1000 seed weight (0.226), harvest index (0.170), lower raceme length (0.104), grain yield per plant (0.174), phosphorus (0.327), calcium (0.157), iron (0.190) and protein (0.269) had contributed positively to diversity. While rest of the characters showed negative contribution towards divergence.

In the vector Z6, the trait days to 50% flowering (0.175), basal tillers (0.552), flag leaf blade length (0.430), flag leaf width (0.160), panicle weight per plant (0.051), grain yield per plant (0.394), calcium (0.017), iron (0.217), zinc (0.089) and protein (0.071) contributed positively to diversity. While rest of the characters showed negative contribution towards divergence.

For the vector Z7, the traits flag leaf blade length (0.200), plant height (0.300), panicle length (0.300), 1000 seed weight (0.100), panicle weight per plant (0.300), harvest index (0.100), phosphorus (0.100) and zinc (0.500) contributed positively to diversity. While rest of the characters showed negative contribution towards divergence

### **Conclusion**

Diversity of parent paly main role for the successful of any breeding programme. So the crosses can be made among the parents having widest divergence would more likely to yield desirable recombination in segregating generations.

**Comment [M22]:** Please try to conclude based on your findings. This not enough to conclude your works

**Table .1. Analysis of variance for 18 morpho-physiological and biochemical characters studied in barnyard millet germplasm accessions**

	DF	Days to 50% flowering	basal tillers	Days to maturity	peduncle length (cm)	FLB Length(cm)	FLB Width(cm)
<b>Replications</b>	1	6.498	0.17	6.216	0.028	1.123	0.023
<b>Treatments (unadjusted)</b>	63	106.721 **	0.788 **	106.202 **	12.791 **	12.886 **	0.122 **
<b>Error (r.c.b.)</b>	63	8.680 **	0.057 **	30.618 **	1.217 **	3.146 **	0.018 **
<b>Blocks within Replicated (adj)</b>	14	10.312	0.073	35.729	1.354	3.791	0.022
<b>Among (a)</b>	7	11.495	0.034	39.991	1.771	3.003	0.013
<b>Among (b)</b>	7	9.129	0.112	31.468	0.937	4.579	0.031
<b>Intrablock Error</b>	49	8.213	0.053	29.157	1.178	2.962	0.017
<b>Total</b>	127	57.297 **	0.421 **	67.920 **	6.949 **	7.962 **	0.070 **

	DF	Plant height (cm)	Panicle length (cm)	1000 seed weight (gm)	panicle weight / plant (gm)	Harvest Index(%)	lower raceme length (cm)
<b>Replications</b>	1	5.53	0.025	0.057	0.512	3.073	0.107
<b>Treatments (unadjusted)</b>	63	389.058 **	18.084 **	0.459 **	6.365 **	10.119 **	1.707 **
<b>Error (r.c.b.)</b>	63	51.494 **	1.366 **	0.033 **	0.596 **	4.204 **	0.071 **
<b>Blocks within Replicated (adj)</b>	14	50.592	1.833	0.032	0.765	5.529	0.066
<b>Among (a)</b>	7	37.696	2.954 *	0.033	0.622	7.957	0.043
<b>Among (b)</b>	7	63.487	0.712	0.03	0.908	3.1	0.09
<b>Intrablock Error</b>	49	51.751	1.233	0.034	0.547	3.826	0.073
<b>Total</b>	127	218.585 **	9.649 **	0.245 **	3.457 **	7.129 **	0.883 **

	DF	Grain yield/ plant (gm)	Phosphorus (mg/ 100g)	Calcium (mg/ 100g)	Iron (mg/ 100g)	Zinc (mg/ 100g)	Protein %
<b>Replications</b>	1	3.971	7.681	0.296	4.423	0.972	0.997
<b>Treatments (unadjusted)</b>	63	5.024 **	192.381 *	11.996 **	8.228 **	86.895 **	3.414 **
<b>Error (r.c.b.)</b>	63	1.138 **	106.989 **	1.660 **	1.297 **	10.480 **	0.476 **

<b>Blocks within Replicated (adj)</b>	14	1.45	151.448	3.416 **	1.355	6.091	0.637
<b>Among (a)</b>	7	0.405	52.24	3.616 **	1.621	5.139	1.127 *
<b>Among (b)</b>	7	2.494 *	250.656 *	3.216 *	1.089	7.043	0.146
<b>Intrablock Error</b>	49	1.049	94.287	1.159	1.281	11.734	0.430
<b>Total</b>	127	3.088 **	148.567 *	6.777 **	4.760 **	48.312 **	1.937 **

**Table 2. Clustering pattern of 64 barnyard millet genotypes by Tocher' method**

<b>Cluster No.</b>	<b>No.of genotypes</b>	<b>Genotype(s)</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>57</b>	GEch-8, GEch-45, GEch-20, GEch-60,GEch-94, GEch-186, GEch-191, GEch-360, GEch-365, GEch-372, GEch- 416, GEch-418, GEch-393,GEch-383, GEch-567, GEch-568, GEch-566, GEch- 570,GEch-571, GEch-572, GEch-573, GEch-374, GEch-578, GEch-579, GEch-206, GEch-581, GEch-997, GEch-634, TNEf-190, TNEf-191, TNEf-192, TNEf-193, TNEf-194, TNEf-195, TNEf-196, TNEf-197, TNEf-198, TNEf-199, TNEf-201, TNEf-203, TNEf-204, TNEf-205, TNEf-206, TNEf-207, TNEf-208, TNEf-209, TNEf-210, TNEf-211, TNEf-212, TNEf-213, TNEf-214, TNEf-216, TNEf-217, TNEf-219, BM NDL-1, BM NDL-2,BM NDL-3, TNEf-318.
<b>II</b>	<b>1</b>	GEch-633
<b>III</b>	<b>1</b>	TNEf-200
<b>IV</b>	<b>1</b>	TNEf-216
<b>V</b>	<b>1</b>	TNEf-202
<b>VI</b>	<b>1</b>	TNEf-215
<b>VII</b>	<b>1</b>	TNEf-218
<b>VIII</b>	<b>1</b>	GEch-995

**Table .3. Average intra and inter cluster distance for the barnyard millet accessions studied**

<b>Cluster Distances</b>								
<b>Clusters</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>VIII</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>92.23</b>	171.93	174.5	152.98	140.92	244.29	213.76	148.2

<b>II</b>		<b>0</b>	248.36	286.75	168.04	268.23	127.71	163.12
<b>III</b>		<b>0</b>		80.2	217.92	107.77	277.34	158.92
<b>IV</b>				<b>0</b>	287.28	62.03	360.53	168.53
<b>V</b>					<b>0</b>	328.08	126.78	113.43
<b>VI</b>						<b>0</b>	401.29	152.7
<b>VII</b>							<b>0</b>	207.48
<b>VIII</b>								0

**Table .4. Cluster means with respect to yield and yield attributes among 64 barnyard millet germplasm accession**

Cluster Means: Torcher method																		
Clusters	DDF	BT	DTM	PL (cm)	FLBL (cm)	FLBW (cm)	PH (cm)	PAL (cm)	TSW (g)	PW (g)	HI (%)	LRL (cm)	GYP (gm)	Ph (mg/100g)	Ca (mg/100g)	Fe (mg/100g)	Zn (mg/100g)	Pr (%)
<b>I</b>	48.17	1.94	88.24	17.56	26.92	2.2	118.25	18.46	2.48	10.1	33.66	3.23	8.69	276.13	19.69	16.72	45.12	8.75
<b>II</b>	42.5	2.7	82.5	20.23	24.35	2	118.45	25.72	2.95	11.2	31.43	6.02	9	284	18.05	18.3	54.1	8.53
<b>III</b>	69	1.4	109	23.25	29.17	2.38	121.66	18.3	2.7	14.4	34.25	2.7	12.15	279.5	16.1	16.7	55.55	7.53
<b>IV</b>	68.99	2	108.98	18.9	26.49	2.48	116.05	16.37	2.75	8.1	32.22	2.27	7.25	266	17.9	17.35	38.23	7.5
<b>V</b>	43.5	2.3	84	14.74	24.65	1.88	98.33	14.02	2.45	14.7	34.64	3.4	12.9	266	17.05	16.35	56.55	7.53
<b>VI</b>	72.5	2.5	112.5	18.95	27	2.53	122.17	17.29	2.3	10.9	34.89	3.82	8.75	267	18.35	16.95	41.95	6.83
<b>VII</b>	41	2.3	81	23.97	21.95	2.21	90.91	15.05	3.65	14.9	30.23	5	12.85	280	22.7	15.1	43.6	7
<b>VIII</b>	55.5	3.9	95.5	19.5	30	1.79	121.5	18.38	2.2	12.6	31.55	4.25	10.4	281.5	21.55	16.5	52.25	7.68

DDF Days to 50% Flowering, BT Basal tillers, DTM Days to maturity, PL Peduncle length, FLBL Flag leaf blade length, FLBW Flag leaf blade width, PH Plant height, PAL Panicle length, TSW 1000 seed weight, PW Panicle weight, HI Harvest index, LRL Lower raceme length, GYP Grain yield per plant, Ph Phosphorus mg/100g, Ca Calcium mg/100g, Fe Iron mg/100g, Zinc mg/100g, Pr Protein.

S.no	Characters	Contribution %	Times ranked 1st
1	Days to 50% flowering	0.4	7.1
2	Basal tillers	7.4	149.0

3	Days to maturity	2.3	46.4
4	Peduncle length (cm)	4.8	97.0
5	Flag Leaf Blade Length (cm)	0.2	4.0
6	Flag Leaf Blade Width (cm)	4.2	84.1
7	Plant height (cm)	1.8	36.1
8	Panicle length (cm)	0.2	3.0
9	1000 seed weight (gm)	6.3	127.0
10	Panicle weight /plant (gm)	15.7	317.0
11	Harvest Index (%)	13.5	272.0
12	lower raceme length (cm)	7.3	147.0
13	Grain yield/plant (g)	16.6	335.1
14	Phosphorus (mg/100g)	0.2	3.8
15	Calcium (mg/100g)	3.7	74.6
16	Iron (mg/100g)	2.3	46.4
17	Zinc (mg/100g)	6.1	122.0
18	Protein (%)	7.2	144.8

**Table .5. Contribution of yield and its attributes towards total diversity in 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions.**

**Comment [M23]:** Move it the top of the table

**Table .6. Canonical vectors for 18 characters in 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions**

Parameters	Z <sub>1</sub>	Z <sub>2</sub>	Z <sub>3</sub>	Z <sub>4</sub>	Z <sub>5</sub>	Z <sub>6</sub>	Z <sub>7</sub>
Eigene Value (Root)	3.70473	2.73658	1.8845	1.75198	1.47025	1.16972	0.9
% Var. Exp.	20.58185	15.20319	10.46943	9.73324	8.16807	6.49842	5.2
Cum. Var. Exp.	20.58185	35.78505	46.25448	55.98772	64.15578	70.65421	75.9
<b>Characters</b>							
Days to 50% flowering	0.40553	0.14318	0.34532	0.02626	0.01383	0.17468	0
basal tillers	-0.18463	0.20613	-0.0076	-0.31914	-0.0538	0.55239	0
Days to maturity	-0.39136	-0.17318	-0.33946	0.00617	-0.00573	-0.23601	0

peduncle length (cm)	-0.013	0.27683	0.13999	-0.08948	0.63295	-0.09399	0
FLB Length(cm)	0.11125	-0.14059	-0.2546	-0.17546	0.30118	0.42982	0.2
FLB Width(cm)	0.23477	0.01766	0.04979	0.4873	-0.21787	0.15969	0
Plant height (cm)	0.31174	0.03393	-0.26736	-0.19041	-0.10658	-0.18571	0.3
Panicle length (cm)	0.21917	0.22722	-0.32112	0.23562	-0.02406	-0.13507	0.3
1000 seed weight (g)	-0.28102	-0.02969	-0.1274	0.39129	0.22562	-0.16856	0.1
panicle weight /plant (g)	-0.21117	0.22571	0.18775	-0.06614	-0.28809	0.05128	0.3
Harvest Index(%)	0.39348	-0.11278	0.08662	-0.00875	0.17041	-0.2252	0.1
lower raceme length (cm)	-0.08338	0.46686	-0.24556	0.01618	0.10394	-0.06371	-0.1
Grain yield/plant (g)	-0.1167	-0.09104	0.03925	0.55332	0.174	0.39394	0
Phosphorus mg/100g	-0.1728	0.18516	0.43724	-0.00856	0.32679	-0.18849	0.1
Calcium mgs/100g	-0.03164	-0.46873	-0.0194	-0.23863	0.1569	0.01741	0.1
Iron mg/100g	0.04763	0.22991	-0.39911	0.00839	0.18985	0.21672	0
Zinc mg/100g	-0.25998	-0.19603	0.17271	0.05257	-0.04862	0.08949	0.5
Protein %	0.18902	-0.3485	-0.0497	0.07461	0.2689	0.07093	-0.1

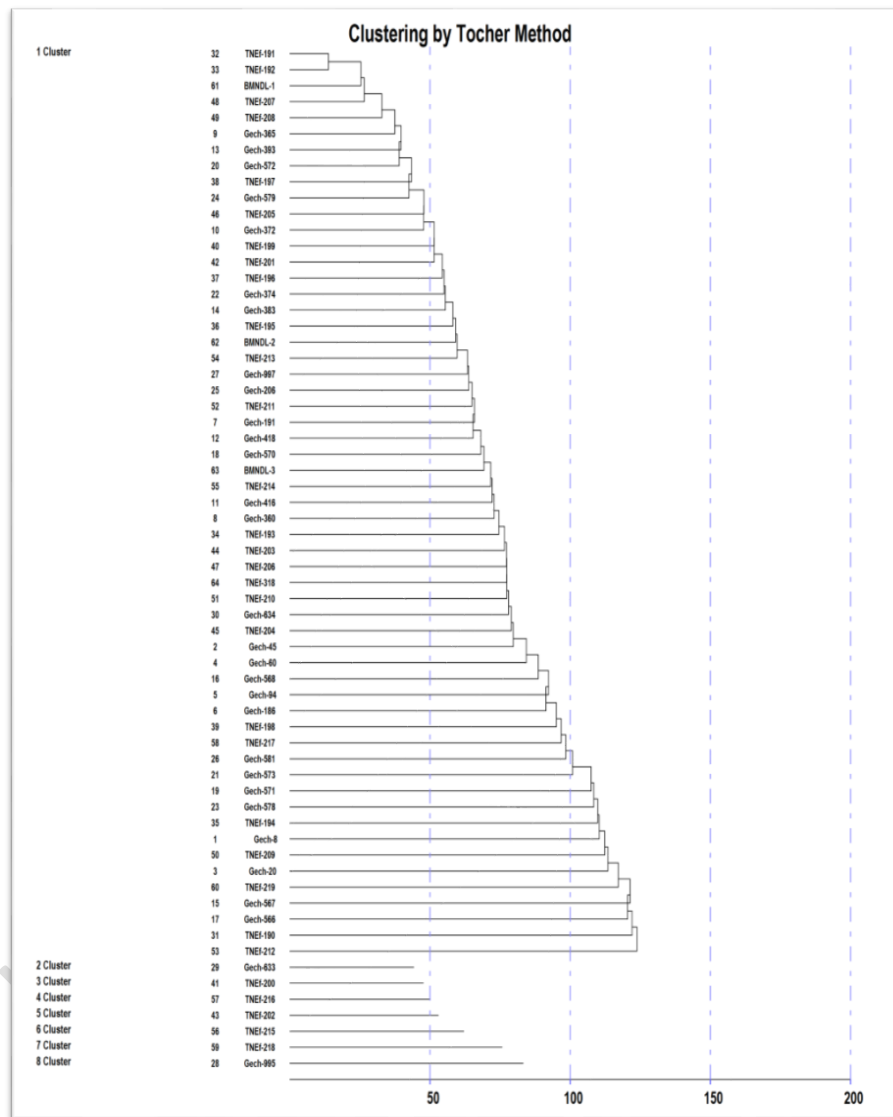
**Table .7. Canonical root values, per cent of variation and cumulative variation explained for 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions**

<b>Eigene Value (Root)</b>	3.70473	2.73658	1.8845	1.75198	1.47025	1.16972	0.9
<b>% Var. Exp.</b>	20.58185	15.20319	10.46943	9.73324	8.16807	6.49842	5.2
<b>Cum. Var. Exp.</b>	20.58185	35.78505	46.25448	55.98772	64.15578	70.65421	75.9

**Table. 8. Mean values of canonical vectors for 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions.**

S. No	Genotype	X Vector	Y Vector	Z Vector
1	Gech-8	3.498	8.382	4.284
2	Gech-45	7.768	4.824	4.366
3	Gech-20	12.916	7.279	3.867
4	Gech-60	6.474	1.984	4.394
5	Gech-94	6.922	7.644	3.136
6	Gech-186	8.306	8.543	4.484
7	Gech-191	9.652	3.384	4.645
8	Gech-360	7.757	5.525	5.016
9	Gech-365	6.646	3.655	6.252
10	Gech-372	3.734	1.387	7.34
11	Gech-416	8.502	2.087	4.779
12	Gech-418	9.684	0.717	3.385
13	Gech-393	9.59	2.765	6.393
14	Gech-383	9.496	4.531	7.518
15	Gech-567	8.537	11.057	3.342
16	Gech-568	9.488	7.851	4.452
17	Gech-566	6.139	8.131	4.711
18	Gech-570	7.292	6.243	5.328
19	Gech-571	4.657	8.791	3.633
20	Gech-572	7.128	2.323	7.98
21	Gech-573	6.775	7.246	5.782
22	Gech-374	7.748	0.971	8.766
23	Gech-578	5.283	5.674	5.295
24	Gech-579	5.856	2.438	7.223
25	Gech-206	10.81	3.714	7.87
26	Gech-581	4.136	5.899	7.341
27	Gech-997	8.876	3.722	9.682
28	Gech-995	6.865	9.463	10.14
29	Gech-633	4.368	13.015	2.946
30	Gech-634	9.227	3.522	6.348
31	TNEf-190	13	7.703	4.216
32	TNEf-191	7.955	0.761	9.631
33	TNEf-192	8.372	0.477	8.543
34	TNEf-193	11.612	5.864	8.537
35	TNEf-194	10.029	8.875	3.463
36	TNEf-195	10.58	1.12	8.753
37	TNEf-196	7.056	4.011	9.506

38	TNEf-197	4.506	0.824	8.462
39	TNEf-198	7.218	2.899	7.302
40	TNEf-199	12.955	9.244	13.684
41	TNEf-200	5.465	3.245	7.604
42	TNEf-201	1.957	5.771	9.192
43	TNEf-202	9.821	1.178	6.593
44	TNEf-203	8.739	-1.358	6.474
45	TNEf-204	6.269	-0.664	8.218
46	TNEf-205	13.451	3.924	8.746
47	TNEf-206	5.075	2.972	7.818
48	TNEf-207	8.236	1.036	5.426
49	TNEf-208	12.432	8.324	10.1
50	TNEf-209	13.878	4.078	6.856
51	TNEf-210	6.454	3.584	6.496
52	TNEf-211	14.943	7.961	7.961
53	TNEf-212	10.781	3.091	9.663
54	TNEf-213	11.931	3.239	9.512
55	TNEf-214	16.194	12.923	11.406
56	TNEf-215	15.74	6.724	10.987
57	TNEf-216	4.806	4.074	6.465
58	TNEf-217	-1.178	9.54	9.022
59	TNEf-218	8.693	5.406	8.2
60	TNEf-219	7.336	2.049	5.76
61	BMNDL-1	7.827	4.863	7.876
62	BMNDL-2	7.838	3.764	5.07
63	BMNDL-3	12.781	3.813	7.165
64	TNEf-318	3.498	8.382	4.284



**Fig.1. Clustering pattern of 64 barnyard millet germplasm accessions by Torchers method**

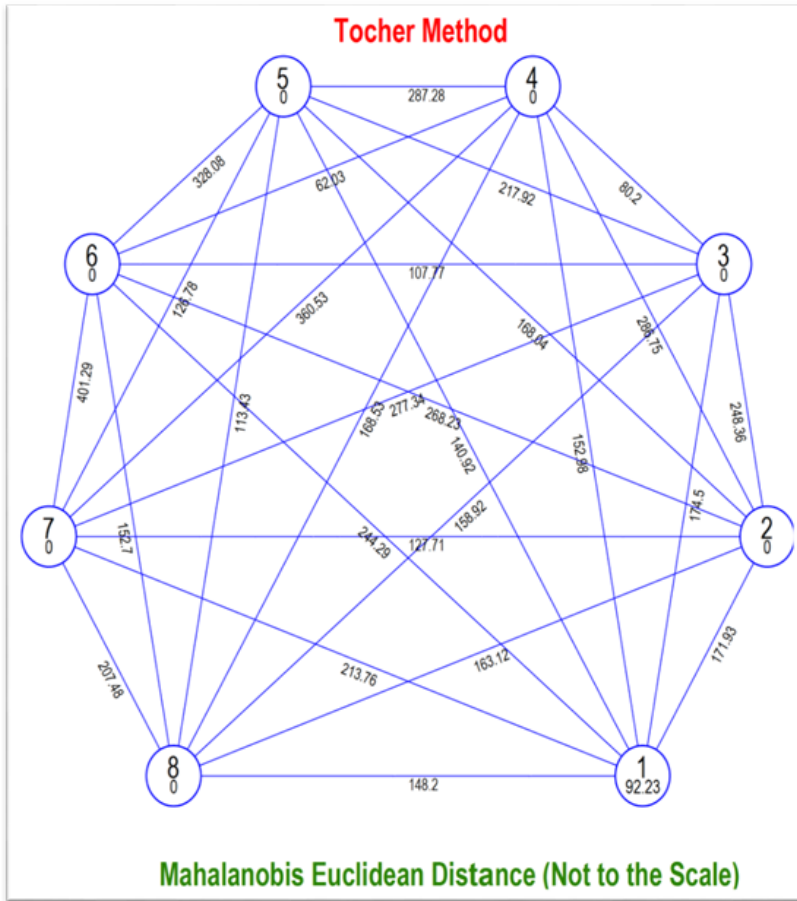


Fig .2. Cluster diagram showing average intra and inter cluster distances

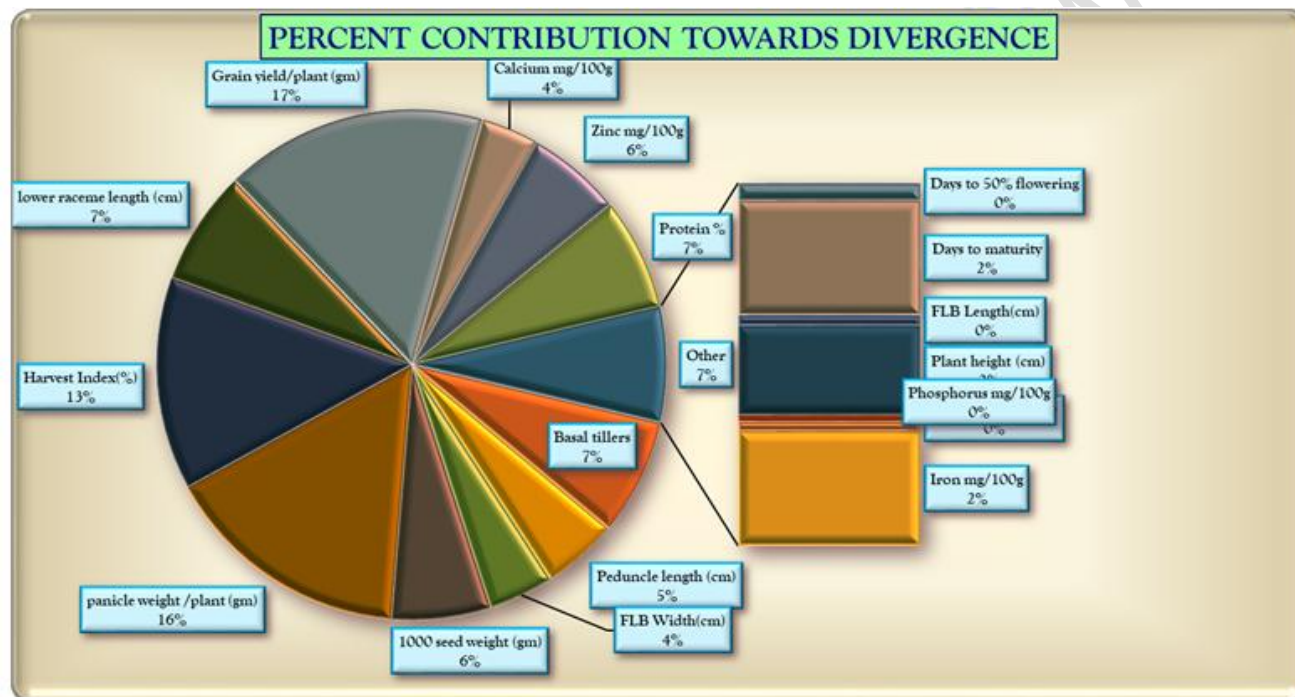


Fig .3. Relative contribution of 18 characters to total genetic diversity in 64 barnyard millet germplasm accession

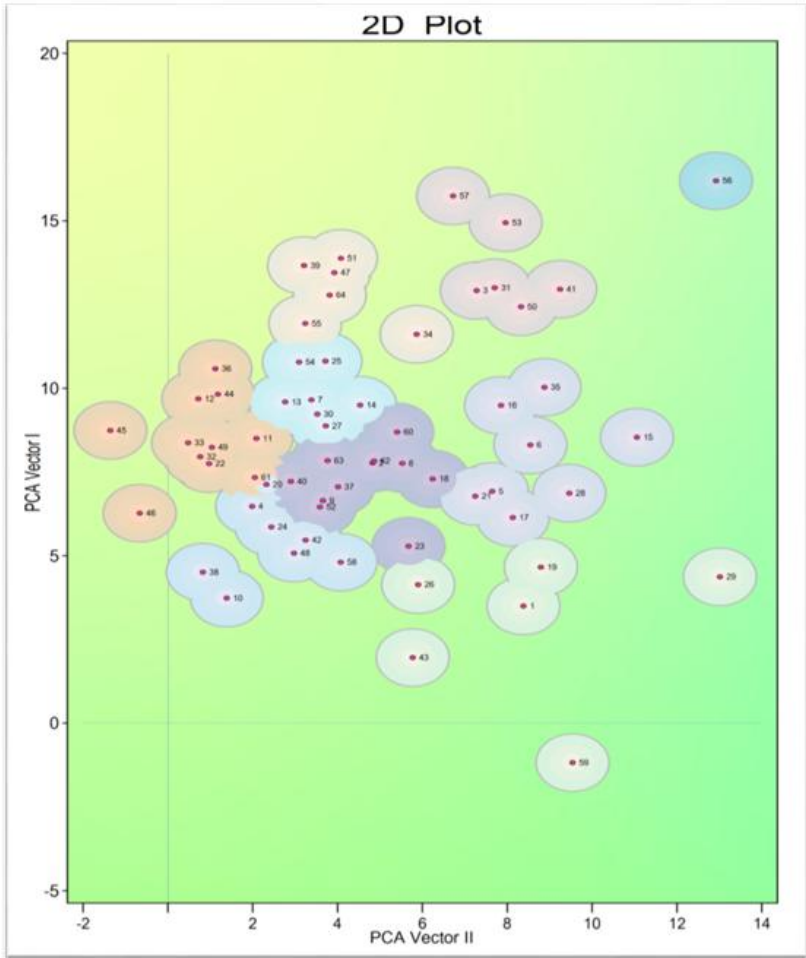
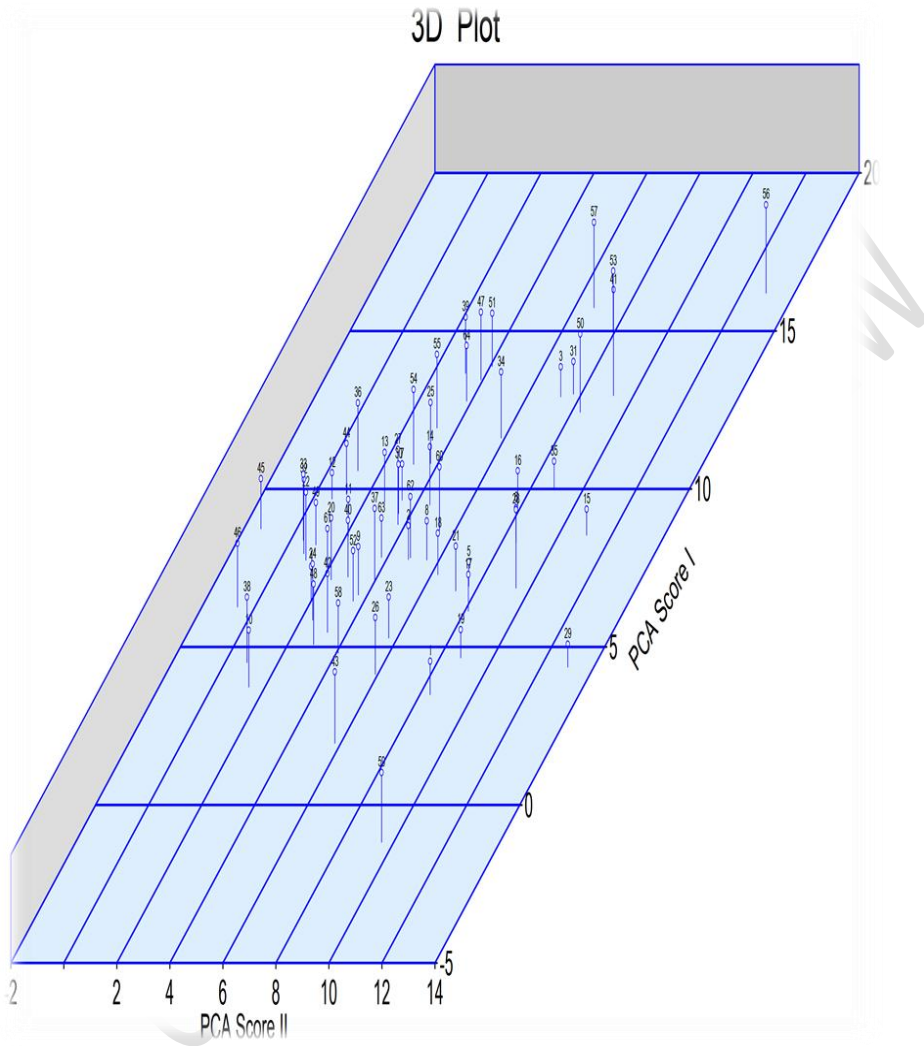


Fig 4. Two dimensional (2D) graph showing relative positions of 64 barnyard millet germplasm based on PCA scores



**Fig 5. Three dimensional (3D) graph showing relative positions of 64 barnyard millet germplasm based on PCA score**

**Annexure I.** Details of the 64 Indian barnyard millet genetic resources utilized for study

S.NO	Germplasm accession	Parentage/ Collection/Source
1	GEch-8	Dholi
2	GEch-45	Dholi
3	GEch-20	Dholi
4	GEch-60	NBPGR DS 67/82/22-2-83 (From GE ch 751)
5	GEch-94	Dholi
6	GEch-186	Almora
7	GEch-191	Almora
8	GEch-360	Almora
9	GEch-365	Almora
10	GEch-372	Almora
11	GEch-416	Almora
12	GEch-418	NBPGR Bihar ( from GE ch 759)
13	GEch-393	Almora
14	GEch-383	Almora
15	GEch-567	Bihar
16	GEch-568	Bihar
17	GEch-566	Orissa
18	GEch-570	Orissa
19	GEch-571	Orissa
20	GEch-572	Orissa
21	GEch-573	Orissa
22	GEch-374	Almora
23	GEch-578	Rewa
24	GEch-579	Rewa
25	GEch-206	Almora
26	GEch-581	Rewa
27	GEch-997	India
28	GEch-995	India
29	GEch-633	Madhya Pradesh, Rewa
30	GEch-634	Madhya Pradesh, Rewa

<b>31</b>	TNEf-190	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>32</b>	TNEf-191	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>33</b>	TNEf-192	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>34</b>	TNEf-193	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>35</b>	TNEf-194	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>36</b>	TNEf-195	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>37</b>	TNEf-196	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>38</b>	TNEf-197	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>39</b>	TNEf-198	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>40</b>	TNEf-199	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>41</b>	TNEf-200	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>42</b>	TNEf-201	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>43</b>	TNEf-202	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>44</b>	TNEf-203	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>45</b>	TNEf-204	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>46</b>	TNEf-205	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>47</b>	TNEf-206	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>48</b>	TNEf-207	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>49</b>	TNEf-208	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>50</b>	TNEf-209	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>51</b>	TNEf-210	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>52</b>	TNEf-211	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>53</b>	TNEf-212	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>54</b>	TNEf-213	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>55</b>	TNEf-214	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>56</b>	TNEf-215	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>57</b>	TNEf-216	TNAU, Athiyandal
<b>58</b>	TNEf-217	TNAU, Athiyandal

59	TNEf-218	TNAU, Athiyandal
60	TNEf-219	TNAU, Athiyandal
61	BMNDL-1	Nandyal local
62	BMNDL-2	PLS from local
63	BMNDL-3	PLS from local
64	TNEf-318	TNAU, Athiyandal

### Acknowledgment

**Comment [M24]:** Please acknowledge institution? Others  
Add any conflict of the interest?

### References

**Comment [M25]:** Make your reference uniform

**Comment [M26]:** 8 references are absent in reference list  
3 references are absent in the body of the manuscript

**Comment [M27]:** Too small ?

Amarnath, K., Prasad, A.V.S.D and Reddy, C.V.C.M. 2019. Assessment of genetic diversity in Indian Italian millet genetic resources [*Setaria Italica* (L.) Beauv]. *Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding*, 10 (1): 83 – 91.

**Comment [M28]:** Why you use b. where is 2015a?

Brunda, S.M., Kamatar, M.Y., Naveenkumar, K.L., Hundekar, R. 2015<sup>b</sup>. Genetic diversity in the foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*) germplasm as determined by phenotypical traits. *The Ecoscan*. 8: 483-488.

Dhanalakshmi, R., A. Subramanian, A., Thirmurugan, T., Elangovan, M and Kalaimagal, T. 2019. Genetic Diversity Study In Barnyard Millet (*Echinochloa Frumentacea* (Roxb.) Link) Germplasm Under Sodic Soil Condition. *Plant Archives* Vol. 19 No. 2, 2019 pp. 2487-2494.

**Comment [M29]:** Absent in the body

Devaliya, S.D., Singh, M and Intawala, C.G. 2017. Genetic divergence studies in finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn.). *International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences*. 6(11): 2017-2022.

Kumari, S and Singh, S.K. 2015. Assessment of genetic diversity in promising finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn) genotypes. *The Bioscan*. 10(2):825-830.

Kavya, P., Sujatha, M., Pandravada, S.R and Hymavathi, T.V. 2017b. Exploiting genetic divergence in italian millet [*Setaria italica* (L.) P. Beauv.] elite germplasm lines: a neglected and a underutilised crop. *Environment and Ecology*. 35(3C):

2312-2315.

**Comment [M30]:** Absent in the body of the manuscript

Manimekalaia, M., M. Dhasarathanb, M., A. Karthikeyanb, A., Murukarthickc, Renganathana, V.G., Thangaraja, K., Vellaikumarb, S., Vanniarajana, C and Senthilb, N. 2018. Genetic diversity in the barnyard millet (*Echinochola frumentacea*) germplasms revealed by morphological traits and simple sequence repeat markers. *Current Plant Biology*. 14 (2018) 71–78.

**Comment [M31]:** Absent in the body

Mahanthasha, M., Sujatha, M., Pandravada, S.R. and Meena, A.K. 2017b. Study of genetic divergence in finger millet ( *Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn) germplasm. *International Journal of Pure and Applied Bioscience*. 5 (3):373-377.

Ramya, R.A., Ahamed, L.M and Srivastava, K.R. 2017b. Genetic diversity analysis among inbred lines of pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.) *International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sci* 6 (6): 2240-2250.

**Comment [M32]:** Absent in the body  
Why b ?

UNDER PEER REVIEW