## Genetic Relationships among Wild Cotton Species Analyzed by Molecular Markers

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Abstract: The genetic relationships among wild cotton species has been analysed by randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) technique. A total of 758 amplified bands were observed using 45 random sequence decamer primers. The genetic distances, which reveal genetic diversity among the species, were estimated from the binary data matrix. The dendrogram produced by Unweighted paired group method of arithmetic means (UPGMA) clustering method assigned the 16 wild species in to five groups. Group I consisted of 4 species with G. anomalum and G. triphyllum are closely placed in the dendrogram as they have similarity index of 0.96 since they are also similar in most of the morpholog-

ical characters. The other two are G. barbosum and G. capitis-viridis. Within the group II G. davidsonii and G. raimondii were clustered together and showed a very reasonable relationship with G. thurberi, G. harknessi and G. aridum. Klotzschianum and G. davidsonii are closely related but varies in the nature of the stem tip, which is glabrous whereas G. davidsonii has light, hairy stem tip and petal spot. G. longicalyx (F genome) is a perennial crawling shrub and G. bickii (G genome) spreading shrub was apart from each other in the dendrogram and form the IV and V group. Group III in the dendrogram of the species studied was clustered together in which G. sturtianum and G. australe differ in flower colour.

**Key words:** Gossypium; species; molecular markers; UPGMA

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