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**Phyllotaxic diversity as a means of assessing variations in mulberry (*Morus* spp.)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Plant architecture is characterised by the regular spacing of lateral organs along stems and branches, an arrangement known as phyllotaxis. Leaf arrangement pattern is a specific trait for a given species and in the majority of angiosperms, it is relatively stable and primarily represented by the Fibonacci pattern. However, diversity has been noted within and amongst the studied mulberry species. The orders of spiral phyllotaxy were ½, 1/3, 2/5, 3/7 or 3/*

*8. Most of the genotypes studied like Thar Harit, Thar Lohit, MI-315, Saharanpur Local-2, Delhi Local, Gurgaon*

*Local, CIAH-3 and Ajmer Local showed ½ phyllotaxy pattern, while genotypes MI-380 and Anand Local exhibited*

*1/3 leaf arrangement. Genotype Saharanpur Local-1 showed 3/8 pattern. Only genotype MI-172 deviated from the Fibonacci series and exhibited 3/7 phyllotaxy. Thus, phyllotaxic divergence can be utilized for differentiating the mulberry varieties.*

***Keywords*:** Morphological characterization, phyllotaxic variation, mulberry, distichous