

SHORT RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Exploratory Studies on Propagation Material of *Trivrita* [*Operculina turpethum* (Linn.) Silva Manso]

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Root of *Trivrita* [*Operculina turpethum* (Linn.) Silva Manso family: Convolvulaceae] is a reputed purgative used for the treatment of constipation, piles, ascites, oedema and some abdominal disorders etc. (Sharma, 1981; Chunekar, 1982). Though the twining undershrub (photo 1) is reported widely distributed throughout India upto an altitude of about 900 m. (Hooker, 1985), it has generally become scarce resulting in marketing of a substitute, viz., roots and stem of *Mursdenia tenacissima* W. & A. (Asclepiadaceae) under trade name of Sweta *Trivrita* or Sweta *Nishotha* (Sharma, loc. cit.). As a first step towards domestication of the species into cultivation exploratory studies were carried on seed germination and vegetative propagation. The present communication summarises results of this study.

Seed germination

Direct sowing of seeds in seed bed

during October (1987) gave upto 20 per cent germination in a period of three weeks. Seeds collected from field grown plants in February (1989) at our garden were used for further germination studies. After discarding light seeds, a set of 50 seeds were sown with onset of monsoon rains (June-July, 1989) giving following three treatments with five replications and a control.

- (a) Seeds were sown directly in the soil after first shower of monsoon (Control).
- (b) Seeds were placed on wet blotting paper in petridishes and kept in dark at room temperature.
- (c) Seeds were soaked in water for 24 hours and afterwards placed on wet blotting paper in petridishes and kept in dark at room temperature.