

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52298

Date: 17-06-2025

Title: Macromorphological study of some species in family Cucurbitaceae

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality | | | √ | |
| Techn. Quality | | √ | | |
| Clarity | | | √ | |
| Significance | | | √ | |

Reviewer's Name: Tahir Ahmad

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Abstract Evaluation:

The abstract provides a well-rounded summary of the research aims, methods, and findings. It clearly identifies the objective of exploring diagnostic morphological traits in nine Cucurbitaceae genera and presents both qualitative and quantitative approaches, with the use of SPSS and Duncan's Multiple Range Test adding statistical rigor. The results highlight important traits for taxonomic delimitation, such as tendril type, leaf structure, fruit and seed morphology, and flower coloration. The mention of evolutionary interpretations—like the transformation of tendril types and flower color trends—adds depth to the taxonomic discussion. The construction of an artificial dichotomous key further enhances the practical utility of the findings. Overall, the abstract is informative, concise, and reflects a well-executed morpho-taxonomic study.

Introduction Evaluation:

The introduction effectively sets the stage for the study by situating Cucurbitaceae within a global ecological and taxonomic context. It references current literature and highlights the morphological diversity and evolutionary significance of the group, especially in relation to climbing adaptations. The focus on tendril identity genes and their evolutionary origin provides a molecular-genetic background that enriches the morphological framework of the study. Citations are recent and relevant, underscoring the

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

contemporary relevance of the research. The rationale for the study is implicit but logically presented, aligning well with the broader goals of improving species delimitation through morphological markers.

Overall Evaluation:

The manuscript demonstrates a solid scientific approach to morphological taxonomy, incorporating both traditional observational methods and modern statistical analyses. It effectively bridges classical taxonomy with evolutionary insights. The research contributes valuable knowledge on species-level distinctions in Cucurbitaceae and provides a practical tool for identification. The content is coherent, well-structured, and academically rigorous.