

**Coll. No. 197 (INGR No. 04112; IC438344), a Dwarf Clove (*Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merr. & Perry) Germplasm**

**B Krishnamoorthy, J Rema and PA Mathew**

*Indian Institute of Spices Research, P.O. Marikkunnu., Kozhikode 673 012 (Kerala)*

Clove, *Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merr. & Perry belonging to family Myrtaceae, is an important tree-spice. It is indigenous to Moluccas Islands in Indonesia, and was introduced into India during the eighteenth century by the colonial rulers. Dried, aromatic and fully-grown unopened flower-bud of clove tree is the clove of commerce.

The Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, Kerala has the mandate to collect, conserve, catalogue and evaluate clove germplasm and a total of 233 accessions has been collected and conserved in the field repository at the experimental farm of the Institute. Two 16 year old clove trees were located at Black Rock Estate, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, during a collection survey (Krishnamoorthy and Rema, 1995).

These trees are dwarf, bushy and about 2 m tall with a canopy width of 5 m. The main trunk is only 0.6 m in height, with profuse branches. Branching starts just 60 cm above the ground level. Each tree yields about 3 kg dry clove per year. The fruits are reddish brown and smaller than normal type. The leaves are arranged in cluster and are longer, broader and thicker with very short internodes, as compared to ordinary clove. A mean of 33.3 leaves could be observed in 12 cm shoot length. The base of the petiole is purplish. The seeds from these trees were collected during the survey and seedlings raised at the institute. The seedlings also exhibited dwarf nature and are conserved at the Institute as acc.197. The morphological characters of the dwarf clove is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Morphological characters of dwarf clove**

Character	Value
Age	8 years
Habit	Shrub
Height	52.62 cm at 8 <sup>th</sup> year (range: 35.0 cm to 67.0 cm)
Shape of tree	Bushy
Canopy	50 cm (range: 24.0 cm to 60.0 cm)
Petiole colour	Purple
Petiole length	2.3 cm (range 2.1 cm to 2.4 cm)
Leaf shape	Lanceolate
Leaf length	10.9 cm (range 8.9 cm to 11.2 cm)
Leaf margin	Wavy
Leaf texture	Glabrous

**Reference**

Krishnamoorthy B and J Rema (1995) Three promising morphological variants in clove (*Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merr. & Perry) from Tamil Nadu, *Indian J Spices and Aromatic Crops* **3**: 168.