



## Fatty acid profiling in gobhi sarson (*Brassica napus*)

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### ABSTRACT

An experiment was carried out during 2017-2018 to estimate fatty acids and the oil content (OC) in fifteen *Brassica napus* genotypes. The quality parameters of oil include fatty acids (FA) and the oil content (OC), important trait differed significantly ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) amongst the *Brassica* species genotype. Among the genotypes, significant differences were noted for the fatty acids and the oil content (OC). In *Brassica napus* seeds oil content varies in between the range of 37.45–41.86% respectively. The saturated fatty acid (SFA) includes the Palmitic acid (PA) varied in between the range of 2.68–4.43% and oleic acid (OA) content results lied between 8.88-56.18% respectively. In linoleic acid (LA) and linolenic acid (LNA), presence of significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) was there. The content of linoleic acid (LA) lies in the range between 12.97- 17.98% respectively and linolenic acid (LNA) content varied from 13.41-23.42% respectively. The stearic acid (SA) content varied from 1.20-1.66 respectively. Erucic acid, another essential trait, significant differences were noted amongst the *Brassica* species genotypes i.e. 12.96-48.80%. The minimum erucic acid (EA) content was noted in GSL-1 genotype and the genotypes namely RSPN-28 and CNH-13-2, EC552608, GSC-6 have also low EA content and the rest of the genotypes namely, RSPN-29, DGS-1, RSPN-25, CNH-11-7, CNH-11-13, RL-1359, HNS-1101, GSC-101, CNH-11-2, HNS-1102 have high erucic content. In fatty acids (FA) content, significant differences were observed in rapeseed-mustard. Desirable cultivars with higher yield and oil content are the chief objective of this concerned study to be further employed in the breeding program.

### Introduction

*Brassicac*s mainly comprises various kind of plants, which can be consumed as vegetables, fodder and also a source of oil and spices. The rapeseed mustard, another name of *Brassica* species is foremost the economically desirable agricultural asset (Chauhan *et al.*, 2020). Area wise, India ranks second and production wise third for oilseed

*Brassica* crops. Under rapeseed mustard, *B. juncea*, is grown on more than 80 % of the overall cultivated area in country among the rapeseed mustard group, because it superbly fit in cropping system of rainfed areas. Globally, rapeseed-mustard produce 72.37 million tonnes from a stretch of 33.64 mha (Anonymous, 2021). India has the

cultivation of rapeseed mustard in an area of 6.23 mha and its production over 9.33 million tonnes and productivity of 15.0q/ha during 2018-19 (Anonymous, 2020). During 2017-18, in J&K state, the rapeseed-mustard crop occupied an expanse of 53000 hectare and have production with 34 thousand quintals and an average productivity with 6.97 q/ha (Anonymous, 2018). In India, for edible oil, the mainly grown oilseed *Brassica* species are *B. juncea* (Indian mustard), *B. napus* (gobhi sarson), *B. rapa* (turnip) syn. *B. campestris* and *B. carinata* (ethiopian mustard) and for seed condiment, *B. oleracea* (brussels sprouts) and *B. nigra* (black mustard) are the main oilseed *brassica* cultivars are to be cultivated (Jat *et al.*, 2019). Out of these, after oil palm and maize, *Brassica napus* L. holds the third important place in world among vital oil crops, which has a distinctive record among that crops that are objectives of breeding. The oil extracted from *Brassica napus* L. are high in quality and rich in fatty acid profiling (Hyder *et al.*, 2021).

*Brassica napus* (gobhi sarson) has genome AACC with chromosome number  $2n=38$  which is associated to *Cruciferae* (mustard) family consist of three thousand other species, and originating when in between *Brassica rapa* (AA with chromosome number  $2n=20$ ) and *Brassica oleracea* (CC with chromosome number  $2n=18$ ), spontaneous hybridization occur (Beszterda *et al.*, 2019).

Fatty acid profiling (also named as FAME) regulates the oil seeds' quality. With the help of identification and quantification in the existing fatty acids in a sample, it helps in processing of the oil. As a result, for the marketplace, fatty acid constitution profile gives critical assistance in evaluating oilseeds and oil which is processed.

Seven major fatty acids appeared from genus *Brassica* group, mainly, palmitic acid (PA or C16:0), stearic acid (SA or C18:0), oleic acid (OA or C18:1), linoleic acid (LA or C18:2), linolenic acid (LNA or C18:3), eicosanoic acid (C22:0), and lastly, erucic acid (EA or C22:1). As in comparison with other alternative vegetable oils, *Brassica* oil has greater genetic variations in fatty acids constitution (Sharafi *et al.*, 2015).

The seed oil of *Brassica* species is specified by notable amount or content of erucic acid i.e. having 50% of the overall fatty acids (C22:1) and is characterized by a long-chain of monounsaturated

fatty acids, primarily not present in any other commercialized plant oil. The oil, higher in erucic acid (EA) can not be utilized for human consumption purpose but have some industrial applications like in printing act as an adhesive, in polyethylene films act as an anti-blocking agents, and in the steel metal industry such as anticorrosive materials. They may also have an application in the fabrication of cosmetics by the incorporation of waxes which can be utilized as a substitute of jojoba oil. Hence there is need to produce varieties having free erucic acid commercially and the varieties which are high in erucic acid for breeding programs and is a propitious objective in *brassica* oilseed crops. In 1968, the first available cultivar, low in erucic acid (EA) oils were firstly develop in the *Brassica napus* genotypes is 'Oro' which is agronomically acceptable (Cartea *et al.*, 2019). Apart from these, other promising targets includes expansion of oleic acid (OA) and linoleic acid (LA), and the depletion of linolenic acid (LNA) content (Rebbelen, 1991). As linoleic acid (LA) is useful for nutritional aspect, and in case of oleic acid, thermostability tends to make it useful for oil for cooking purposes. The oil having high oleic acid is better in taste and may also include health benefits. The foremost target of this concerned work to assess the quality of seeds including fatty acid (FA) constitution and seed's oil content (OC)) of genotypes of *Brassica napus* to find out the qualitatively desirable genotypes, and to evaluate their acceptability for human consumption or industrial applications.

## Material and Methods

The seeds of 15 *Brassica napus* were procured from various sources (Table 1). Fifteen genotypes of *Brassica napus* were grown in the experimental field of Division of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST, Jammu) during 2017-18. Analyzation of respective dried seed samples was done for oil content (OC) by the use of wide line NMR (New Port Analyzer Model MK III A) and in case of fatty acid constitution by using AIMIL 5700 series gas liquid chromatograph (GLC). Determinations were accomplished as triplicate and then statistically, data were analyzed.

**Table 1: List of *Brassica* varieties used for evaluation of fatty acid composition and oil content.**

| S. No | Genotypes | Source       |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| 1     | RSPN-29   | SKUAST-J     |
| 2     | RSPN-28   | SKUAST-J     |
| 3     | DGS-1     | SKUAST-J     |
| 4     | RSPN-25   | SKUAST-J     |
| 5     | CNH-11-7  | PAU Ludhiana |
| 6     | CNH-11-13 | PAU Ludhiana |
| 7     | GSL-1     | PAU Ludhiana |
| 8     | GSC-101   | PAU Ludhiana |
| 9     | CNH-11-2  | PAU Ludhiana |
| 10    | GSC-6     | PAU Ludhiana |
| 11    | EC552608  | CSKHPKV      |
| 12    | CNH-13-2  | PAU Ludhiana |
| 13    | HNS-1102  | CCSHAU       |
| 14    | RL-1359   | CSKHPKV      |
| 15    | HNS-1101  | CCSHAU       |

## Results and Discussion

The parameters of fifteen *Brassica* genotypes including total oil content and their range and the mean values is presented in Table 2. Among the genotypes, the seed oil content ranged from 37.45–41.86% in *Brassica napus* (Table 2). The results indicates that in between the genotypes of different species, there is presence of variation sufficiently for oil content. In future plant breeding programmes, existence of variation is the astonishing feature of Brassica oil seeds for seed oil content which compel them a potential asset for exploitation. Comparable results have also been shown by Mukherjee and Kiewitt (1984), Rai *et al.* (2018), Getinet *et al.* (1997), Rabiee *et al.* (2004), Wilson (2004), Singh *et al.* (2014), and Sharafi *et al.* (2015). These results shows that in plant breeding programmes, the various genotypes can be set out as the pool of qualitative genes which could be utilized for the boosting of oil content (OC) in different species of *Brassica* genus.

**Profiling of fatty acid:** The fatty acid (FA) constitution of various *Brassica napus* genotypes is shown in table 3. In this concerned study, the saturated fatty acid content i.e. Palmitic acid (PA) varied within the 2.68–4.43 % range in *Brassica napus* genotypes. Within different *Brassica* species, the amount of the saturated fatty acid was detected to be below 7% that is acceptable to be fit for human consumption (Table 3). If saturated fatty

acids are in higher amounts, *Brassica* oilseeds prompt to health disorders like in humans such as hypercholesterolemia. On the other hand, species with high palmitic acid will lead to some potential applications such as in industries like chemical and soap related (Singh *et al.*, 2014).

The study of different genotypes of *Brassica* indicated the enormous differences for the content of unsaturated fatty acids includes the monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs), mainly consist of oleic acid (OA), eicosanoic acid, erucic acid (EA), and the polyunsaturated (PUFAs) consist of linolenic acid (LNA) and linoleic acid (LA) respectively. Taking into account this concerned study, the *Brassica* genotypes showing greater amount of linoleic acids and less amount of erucic acid (EA) could make use in future breeding programs for increasing the quality of oil to be used in industrial and nutritional aspects. Therefore, the foremost promising target in improvement of *Brassica* programmes implies the decrease in erucic and linolenic acids and rise in oleic and linoleic acids. In case of MUFAs, the oleic acid (OA) content in *Brassica napus* genotypes varied within 8.88-56.18 % range as shown in Table 3. Comparable results have also been shown by Rai *et al.* (2018), Chhokar *et al.* (2008), Sharafi *et al.* (2015), and Singh *et al.* (2014). Oleic acid (OA) has an application in lowering the level of cholesterol, important constituent related to coronary heart disease (Grundy, 1986). Therefore, for human consumption, higher content of oleic acid (OA) is thought to be of having good nutritive utility, as in blood, it enhances the HDL (High-density lipoprotein) level and reduces the LDL (low-density lipoprotein) level (Chang and Huang, 1998). Because of increased thermo stability, greater oleic acid content would permit the use of oil more widely (Chauhan *et al.*, 2002). Aside from playing a promising part in enhancing the cooking oil efficiency, oleic acid plays an important role in making the seed's oil much worthy in industrial aspects also (Wilson, 2004). Erucic acid is other desirable MUFA which is reported to be antinutritional factor as high amount of erucic acid is considered to increase blood cholesterol and impair myocardial conductance (Renarid and Mc Gregor 1976). Therefore, it is important to reduce erucic acid up to 2% (internationally accepted

**Table 2: Total oil content (%) in various *Brassica* genotypes**

| SN           | Varieties | Saturated Fatty acid (%) | Unsaturated Fatty acid (%) |               |             |              |                 |             |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
|              |           | Palmitic acid            | Oleic acid                 | Linoleic acid | Linolenic   | Stearic acid | Eicosenoic acid | Erucic acid |
| 1            | RSPN-29   | 3.55                     | 27.99                      | 14.07         | 22.61       | 1.29         | -               | 34.56       |
| 2            | RSPN-28   | 3.69                     | 33.18                      | 16.23         | 21.34       | 1.3          | -               | 12.96       |
| 3            | DGS-1     | 3.55                     | 20.71                      | 15.40         | 21.15       | 1.27         | 0.38            | 28.13       |
| 4            | RSPN-25   | 3.31                     | 25.93                      | 13.88         | 20.98       | 1.21         | -               | 36.48       |
| 5            | CNH-11-7  | 3.41                     | 28.55                      | 14.28         | 13.41       | 1.32         | 0.39            | 31.44       |
| 6            | CNH-11-13 | 3.69                     | 34.75                      | 15.10         | 17.88       | 1.4          | -               | 22.80       |
| 7            | CNH-13-2  | 4.43                     | 56.03                      | 15.66         | 16.5        | 1.34         | -               | 12.61       |
| 8            | EC552608  | 4.32                     | 56.18                      | 17.98         | 14.32       | 1.61         | -               | 18.15       |
| 9            | GSC-6     | 3.81                     | 32.16                      | 14.04         | 22.26       | 1.475        | 0.35            | 18.15       |
| 10           | RL1359    | 4.09                     | 39.7                       | 15.25         | 20.50       | 1.65         | -               | 25.60       |
| 11           | HNS-1101  | 3.46                     | 32.06                      | 15.25         | 22          | 1.34         | -               | 24.54       |
| 12           | GSC-101   | 2.68                     | 8.88                       | 17.34         | 19.96       | 1.25         | 0.82            | 48.80       |
| 13           | CNH-11-2  | 4.09                     | 32.31                      | 15.27         | 23.42       | 1.32         | 0.42            | 24.26       |
| 14           | GSL-1     | 3.59                     | 33.01                      | 14.38         | 20.79       | 1.3          | 0.35            | 33.24       |
| 15           | HNS-1102  | 3.64                     | 29.91                      | 12.97         | 20.85       | 1.44         | 0.36            | 25.28       |
| <b>Mean</b>  |           | 3.68                     | 32.75                      | 15.14         | 19.86       | 1.36         | 0.43            | 26.46       |
| <b>Range</b> |           | 2.68-4.43                | 8.88-56.18                 | 12.97-17.98   | 13.41-23.42 | 1.20-1.66    | 0.36-0.82       | 12.96-48.80 |

norm) for increasing the level of oleic acid which is a cholesterol reducing fatty acid (Chauhan *et al.*, 2007). The linoleic and linolenic acids comes under the PUFAs. The content of linoleic and linolenic acids lies between from 12.97- 17.98% and 13.41-23.42 % in *B. napus* respectively (Table 3). The results come by in this study are in close agreement with those acquired by Rai *et al.* (2018), Peiretti and Meineri (2007), Singh *et al.* (2014), and Sharafi *et al.* (2015). Linoleic acid (LA) is a crucial fatty acid (FA) which is the base for prostaglandin and also for some other necessary body regulators (Chauhan *et al.*, 2002). But linoleic acid (LA) must be procured from diet as it is not able to synthesize by human body itself. Its been described that the level of high LA in edible oil decreases cholesterol in blood and hampers atherosclerosis (Ghafoorunissa, 1994). While linolenic acid (LNA) is further an important fatty acid (FA), so far in the oil, its existence may results in off flavor and rancidity (Sharafi *et al.*, 2015). Oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) has seed lipids typically consist of less proportions (below 3%) of stearic acid. Stearic acid is mainly used as an agent for emulsifying or as an agent to attain high quality consistency in cosmetic products (Zarhloul *et al.*, 2006). In this

concerned study, the amount of stearic acid varied between 1.20-1.66 respectively.

The huge amounts of components which are nutritionally undesired such as erucic acid and glucosinolates are present in the Indian rapeseed and mustard cultivars. Hence, there is a necessity to produce new varieties, having low levels of both erucic acid (EA) and glucosinolates. In the present study, the erucic acid (EA) content varied from 12.96-48.80% in *B. napus* varieties (Table 3). Erucic acid (EA) is categorized as a natural toxicant and higher erucic acid (EA) in cooking oil leads to negative effects on health. Its most serious damaging health effects involves accumulation of triacylglycerol in the heart caused by inadequate oxidation. Such myocardial lipidosis may leads to bring down contractility of the heart muscle (Vetter *et al.*, 2020). The data revealed that genotypes i.e. GSL-1, RSPN-28 and CNH-13-2, EC552608, GSC-6 are low in erucic acid content and tends to make them suitable for commercialized cultivation and also use these for introduction of traits having low erucic acid into cultivars which are higher yielding. Besides this, genotypes of *Brassica napus* consisting high erucic acid (EA) have an application in industries (Hristov *et al.*, 2011).

**Table 3. Fatty acid composition of various *Brassica* varieties.**

| SN | Variety   | Oil Content (%) |
|----|-----------|-----------------|
| 1  | RSPN-29   | 41.73           |
| 2  | RSPN-28   | 41.86           |
| 3  | DGS-1     | 39.31           |
| 4  | RSPN-25   | 39.31           |
| 5  | CNH-11-7  | 40.44           |
| 6  | CNH-11-13 | 39.31           |
| 7  | CNH-13-2  | 39.18           |
| 8  | EC552608  | 37.45           |
| 9  | GSC-6     | 39.82           |
| 10 | RL1359    | 40.32           |
| 11 | HNS-1101  | 39.18           |
| 12 | GSC-101   | 37.69           |
| 13 | CNH-11-2  | 40.07           |
| 14 | GSL-1     | 40.45           |
| 15 | HNS-1102  | 39.18           |
|    | Mean      | 39.68           |
|    | Range     | 37.45–41.86     |

Lately, there is an extended demand for high erucic acid (EA) rapeseed with an expanding demand for ecological (biodegradable) and eco-friendly oil products namely, cosmetics, soaps, rubber, pharmaceuticals nylon, biodiesel, lubricants, surfactants (Konkol *et al.*, 2019; Li *et al.*, 2012; Hristov *et al.*, 2011). Before the canola varieties were raised for consumption of human in 1974, *Brassica napus* genotypes were commonly higher in erucic acid (EA) (Lu *et al.*, 2020). Presently, the development of cultivars which are higher in erucic acid (EA) content is a prime concern in breeding of *brassica*. In this study, the genotypes RSPN-29, DGS-1, RSPN-25, CNH-11-7, CNH-11-13, RL-1359, HNS-1101, GSC-101, CNH-11-2, HNS-1102

have high erucic acid (EA) content. The observation of the information concerned with an appreciable amount of variability in fatty acid content of the diverse *brassica* species can be further make use in the breeding programmes for the development of genotypes with larger qualitative potential.

### Conclusion

Profiling of fatty acid named as the fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) analysis, is done by plant breeders and various producers for estimating composition of oil and the oilseeds. Profiling of fatty acid permits the rapeseed growers, its handlers, its processors and its oil producers to find out the product's oil composition and to confirm the quality of oil and oilseed as products are switched from producer to end user. The analysis of fatty acids (FA) is done by automated, highly efficient gas chromatography (GC), which gives the uncomplicated and simple results. Plant breeders can do profiling of fatty acid as an analytical tool to find out which lines to proceed further. A FAME test gives a quantitative study of the seed oil constitution with merely a sample taken. As in general, the erucic acid (EA) is the major antinutritional factor in *Brassica* so it should be present in fewer amounts but nowadays it is needed in high amount also for fulfilling the industrial needs. In this concerned study, GSL-1 is the genotype having minimum erucic acid (EA) content and can be used further in future and the genotypes namely, RSPN-29, DGS-1, RSPN-25, CNH-11-7, CNH-11-13, RL-1359, HNS-1101, GSC-101, CNH-11-2, HNS-1102 have high erucic content so can be used in industrial grounds.

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