

## **BIOLOGY OF *ABRUS PRECATORIUS* L. SEEDS: INFLUENCE OF $H_2SO_4$ AND $GA_3$ ON ENHANCED GERMINATION POTENTIAL AND OPTIMIZATION OF RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR SAFE STORAGE**

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*ABSTRACT* : Freshly harvested seeds of the medicinally important leguminous vine, *Abrus precatorius* L., initially exhibit no germination due to the existence of a sort of primary dormancy. Scarification by 18(N)  $H_2SO_4$  for 10 min was found to be most effective giving rise to the germination of 35% of seeds. Enhanced germination was noticed when properly scarified seeds were treated with different concentrations of  $GA_3$  for different durations. Treatment with 250 ppm  $GA_3$  for 12 hrs duration was the most effective one enhancing the germination to  $\pm 98\%$ . A sort of 'double dormancy', i.e. the involvement of seed coats as well as inhibitory chemicals in imparting dormancy, in seeds of *Abrus precatorius* L. has been inferred. For the purpose of storage, 60% RH was found to be most suitable one in continuing the viability of seed lots up to 24 weeks.

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