MOLECULAR EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS OF *EUPHORBIA SCORDIFOLIA* JACQ. WITHIN THE GENUS INFERRED FROM ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL TRANSCRIBED SPACER SEQUENCES

Keywords: *Euphorbia scordifolia*; Euphorbiaceae; ITS; Genotyping.

Abstract

The present study explored molecular phylogenetic analysis of 28 species of *Euphorbia* L. for the identification and establishment of molecular evolutionary relationships of *Euphorbia scordifolia* Jacq. Within the genus based on the internal transcribed spacers (ITS) sequences (ITS1-5.8S-ITS2) of nuclear ribosomal DNA (nrDNA). The sequence similarity search using Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) of the ITS sequence of *E. scordifolia* showed the closest sequence similarity to *E. supina* Raf. The analysis of ITS sequence data revealed four major clades consistent with subgeneric classifications of the genus.