

Table 1. Six quantitative traits (mean values)* in three select *Corchorus* species

Character	<i>C. olitorius</i>	<i>C. pseudo-olitorius</i>	<i>C. trilocularis</i>
Green weight (g)	84.3	17.1	31.8
Plant height (cm)	205.0	83.8	105.8
Basal diameter (cm)	1.1	0.5	0.6
Stick weight (g)	7.8	1.5	3.3
Fibre weight (g)	4.3	0.4	0.8
Days to first flowering	158.0	23.7	29.5

*Data after Sinha *et al.*¹².

natural hybrids in *Corchorus*¹³ and did indulge in artificial hybridization successfully¹⁴.

Since its description, *C. pseudo-olitorius* has been discovered in newer territories¹⁵. Therefore, it is conceived here as a reproductive nothospecies. Pending the publication of my manuscript¹⁶ and to avoid further confusion in the interpretation of the dynamic (ecological/evolutionary) nature of this taxon, the following status is proposed:

Corchorus [x] *pseudo-olitorius* Islam & Zaid in *Biologia (Lahore)* 6: 174. 1960, emend. H. B. Singh & M. V. Viswan., *pro nothosp.*

Basionym: *C. pseudo-olitorius* Islam & Zaid, 1960, *pro sp.*

Parentage: *C. olitorius* L. x *C. trilocularis* L.

Nothotype: Pakistan, Sind, Hyderabad 22-08-1957, *Babu Baig 1068* (RAW; nothoisotype: K).

Werth and Wagner Jr.¹⁷ proposed that an 'x' placed in brackets better designates the reproductively competent species of hybrid origin. It is adopted here since it is informative, may be it is not yet integral to the botanical code².

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Structure and tectonics of Kutch basin and earthquakes

There is now a growing appreciation amongst earth scientists at both national and international levels that precise understanding of the tectonic history of Kachchh region, Gujarat is likely to provide us clues about the high seismic susceptibility of the terrain. We are thus left with little option but to reassess the geology of the region for finding a rational explanation of this unusually sensitive seismic belt. While attempting to educate us on the mechanism of rifting and mag-

matism, Biswas¹ grossly oversimplified the issue of geological evolution of a region, which has a multi-event geological history. His comments on the genesis of Kachchh lineaments help only to reiterate his conviction, which may not stand any critical scientific scrutiny. A serious lack of understanding of these features cannot escape attention of any knowledgeable reader. Without elaborating further, I would emphasize the need of a thorough geological reinterpretation of

the Kachchh region, which would provide us an answer to the high seismic susceptibility of the SCR region

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