

# PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF STONE OF SOME DATE (PHOENIX DECTYLIFERA L.) CULTIVARS

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## ABSTRACT

Physical characteristics and chemical composition of stone of five date cultivars viz. Basra, Desi (local), Dhakki, Gulistan and Mekrani were determined. It was found that the Desi (local) cultivar exceeded all other varieties in stone percentage, whereas Gulistan cultivar surpassed all other cultivars in average weight and length of stone. All the varieties contained substantial amount of sugars, proteins, fats and essential mineral elements which on an average are sugars 4.36%, proteins 5.88%, fats 8.84%, calcium 70.61 mg/100 gms, Iron 1.95 mg/100 gms, Phosphorus 54.58 mg/100 gms, potassium 282.00 mg/100 gms and sodium 10.59mg/100 gms. The variations observed in these values are statistically found to be significant. The food ingredients in the stone can serve as animal and poultry feed. However, it needs further research to explore efficient and economical methods for its substitute in feeds.

## INTRODUCTION

Date (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) has been one of the most important food material consumed largely by the people in the Middle East and some parts of Africa. The large scale consumption of date in some countries may be attributed to its nutrient content specially carbohydrate, which provide sufficient energy.