

## SCREENING OF LOCAL CHICKPEA (*CICER ARIETINUM* L.) GERMPIASM FOR RESISTANCE TO ASCOCHYTA BLIGHT

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### ABSTRACT

One hundred and twelve genotypes of chickpea were selected out of 1210 local collections under artificial epiphytotic condition and subsequently re-tested for three seasons. Four, 12, and 9 genotypes showed 2, 3 and 4 ratings on 1-9 scale and were considered resistant, while the remaining 87 genotypes rated 5, and were considered tolerant to blight. Genotypes, KC-239, KC-1267, KC-1271, KC-1273, KC-1274, KC-1275, KC-1277, KC-1279, KC-1282, KC-1283, KC-1284, KC-1285, KC-1287, KC-1288, KC-1289 and KC-1290 exhibited high level of resistance to *Ascochyta* blight.

### INTRODUCTION

Chickpea *Cicer arietinum* L. is the most important pulse crop cultivated over an area of 1.07 to 1.2 million hectares annually with an average yield of 550 kg/ha [1]. Many factors are responsible for low yields, which include excessive vegetative growth and low harvest index [2]. But the most important limiting factor in exploiting the yield potential of cultivars has been the occurrence of blight disease caused by a fungus *Ascochyta rabiei* (pass). It usually occurs in rainfed areas of Sargodha and Rawalpindi division of Punjab and D.I.Khan, Bannu and Kohat District of N.W.F.P. About 75% of total production comes from these areas [3]. Prior to 1978-79 blight appeared in cycles of 5-8 years in Pakistan [3]. Although it has been taking heavy toll in certain areas by dry weather succeeding the cloudy and wet spells. Due to its