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Pepper in *Drosophila*:

The extensive knowledge of the genetics of *Drosophila melanogaster* and the long experimental experience with this organism has made it of unique usefulness in mutation research and genetic toxicology. *Emblica officinalis*, commonly known as amla, is a rich dietary source of vitamin C, minerals, amino acids, and also contains various phenolic compounds. Piperine (the trans-trans stereoisomer of 1-piperoyl piperidine) is the major pungent ingredient, active principle and also the principal alkaloid present in the dry black peppercorns, *Piper nigrum*. Benzaldehyde was selected as the drug to induce mutation in *Drosophila* in the present study. Ethanolic Extracts of *Emblica officinalis* and *Piper nigrum* were selected as the herbal drugs as antigenotoxic or antimutagenic agents, against the genotoxic effect of benzaldehyde.

About the Author Ms V. Deepa Parvathi is a gold medalist in M Sc Human Genetics from Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India. She is presently a Lecturer in the Department of Human Genetics of the same university. Her research interests lie in the areas of Immunology and *Drosophila* biology. She has authored several research papers in journals of repute.