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Short Communication

## A THIN SHELLLED, DORMANT BUNCH GROUNDNUT CULTURE VG 9526

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A spanish bunch groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*) L. subsp. *fastigiata* Waldron var. *vulgaris* Harz.) culture VG 9526 was developed at Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam following pedigree method from a 3-way cross (ICGS 44 × JL 24) × ALR 2. ICGS 44 and JL 24 are high yielding popular varieties. ALR 2 is a high yielding bunch type which has 15 days seed dormancy besides high oil content of 52 per cent. Further it has medium resistance to rust and late leaf spot diseases [1].

VG 9526 is erect bunch type maturing in 95-100 days. The morphological features of the culture are presented in Table 1 as per the IPGRI descriptor [2]. Sound mature kernels from the pods collected at normal maturity were utilised for testing seed dormancy. The results of the germination test conducted at 15 and 20 days after harvest were 0 and 15 per cent respectively. Hence presence of seed dormancy for 15 days was evident.

The thickness of the shells of the pods were measured by weighing unit area and expressed in mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. VG 9526 recorded the lowest weight of 28.88 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> as against 40.68 and 41.12 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> by VRI 2 and VRI 4 check varieties respectively. As the shells are very thin in VG 9526, the shelling outturn is as high as 76.5 per cent. VG 9526 was evaluated for reaction to diseases viz, rust and late leafspot, adopting infector row technique and rated just before harvest on 9-point scale [3]. VG 9526 recorded a score of 3.1 for rust and 5.0 for late leafspot as compared to 4.7 and 7.4 scores respectively by VRI 2, the standard susceptible check. This culture is currently under evaluation in multilocation trials in Tamil Nadu. It is an useful donor for seed dormancy and high shelling outturn. Seeds of VG 9526 can be obtained from Regional Research Station, Vriddhachalam, 606 001, Tamil Nadu, India.

**Table 1. Morphological description of the groundnut culture VG 9526**


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Growth habit	:	Erect
Branching pattern	:	Sequential
Stem pigmentation	:	Absent
Stem hairiness	:	Scarce
Lateral branch habit	:	Non-distichous
Length of reproductive branch	:	1-5 cm
No. of flowers per inflorescence	:	1-3
Peg color	:	Present
Standard petal color	:	Orange
Standard petal marking	:	Purple crescent
Leaf color	:	Dark green
Leaflet length	:	43.70 mm
Leaflet width	:	22.00 mm
Length/width ratio	:	1.91
Leaflet shape	:	Elliptic-obvate
Hairiness of young leaflets	:	Sparse and short
Hairiness of mature leaflets	:	Sparse and short
Number of seeds per pod	:	2-1-3
Pod beak	:	Moderate
Pod constriction	:	Moderate
Pod reticulation	:	Smooth
Pod length	:	26.3 mm
Pod width	:	9.1 mm
Seed color	:	One color
Primary seed color	:	Tan
Secondary seed color	:	Nil
Seed length	:	13.5 mm
seed width	:	9.1 mm
Seed weight	:	32.22 g/100 kernel
Days to emergence	:	7
Days to 50% flowering	:	28
Days to maturity	:	95-100
Fresh seed dormancy	:	70%/23 days
Seed dormancy	:	0%/14 days and 70%/23 days
Shelling percentage	:	76.5
Yield	:	270.83 g/sq met.
Oil content	:	49.1%

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