

*Full Length Research Paper*

# Modified protocol for RNA isolation from different parts of field-grown jute plant suitable for NGS data generation and quantitative real-time RT-PCR

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High quality RNA extraction from field-grown jute plants can be difficult due to the presence of complex polyphenolic, polysaccharide and waxes. But isolation of RNA in high quality is a basic need in plant genetics, genomics, transcriptomics, molecular biology and related physiological investigations. Here, cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) based modified RNA isolation protocol suitable for isolating high quality total RNA from different parts of field-grown jute plants was reported. Modifications come with two extra wash with extraction buffer, residual polysaccharides precipitation with absolute ethanol and potassium acetate during phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (PCI), intermediate pelleting with lithium chloride followed by dissolving the pellet in sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS). The 28S/18S ratio and RIN of isolated RNA were greater than 2.0 and 7.3 to 8.8, respectively reveal RNA to be high purity. The isolated RNA can be used directly for subsequent downstream applications including cDNA library construction, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and RNA-Seq raw data generation without further purification. Moreover, this study showed that this method could also be successfully applied to other polyphenols and polysaccharides rich malvaceous plants.

**Key words:** RNA isolation, *Corchorus*, Jute, quantitative polymerase chain reaction with reverse transcription (RT-qPCR), cDNA library construction, next-generation sequencing (NGS) data generation.

## INTRODUCTION

cDNA sequencing (RNA-Seq) technology provides the opportunity to identify all expressed transcripts (Guttman et al., 2010) along with the assessment of different important phenomena such as gene expression levels (Pickrell et al., 2010), differential splicing events (Liu et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2008, 2010) and allele-specific

gene expression (Rozowsky et al., 2011). High quality RNA extraction is required for cDNA sequencing which is very challenging for the plants rich in mucilage, polysaccharides and polyphenolic compounds (Mac, 2007). Jute (*Corchorus* species) is an annual, herbaceous bast fibre crop and the second most important natural

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fiber after cotton, in terms of production and usage. Fibers are commonly used as filler, or reinforcement; insulation or use as structural elements, and disposable or durable products such as yarns and textiles, ropes, twines, non-woven fabrics, paper and fiber board products, packaging and construction materials, geotextiles and composites and automotive parts (van Dam and Bos, 2004). Jute plant has extremely high contents of acidic and proteinaceous type of mucilage (Stephen et al., 2006) in its various tissues which complicates the isolation of RNA for downstream applications (Rai et al., 2010; Pandey et al., 1996). Elimination of this mucilage is a major challenge for the available protocols of RNA extraction. Moreover, the problem is magnified by conformational changes in mature jute leaves. An irreversible increase in viscosity of the hydrocolloid obtained from leaves occurs during cell lysis at the temperature  $>60^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Yamazaki et al., 2009). Standard RNA isolation techniques such as guanidinium-phenol-chloroform extraction (Chomczynski and Sacchi, 1987), TRIZOL and Cetyl Trimethyl Ammonium Bromide (CTAB) methods have failed to isolate adequate and quality RNA from jute leaf (Figure S1 and Table 2). The difficulties of RNA extraction from jute plants have been reported by number of researchers (Khan et al., 2004; Mahmood et al., 2011).

Several protocols (Kumar et al., 2011; Sharma et al., 2003; Hu et al., 2002) are available for isolating RNA from plant tissues containing high levels of polysaccharides and polyphenol compounds. Each of the methods is designed for specific plant species and the nature of the target tissue. Samanta et al. (2011) had established a method for RNA extraction from jute stem only, which employs modified hot borate treatment followed by isopycnic centrifugation. Furthermore, Choudhary et al. (2016) also claimed an RNA isolation procedure from developing jute stem only. But the amount of mucilage, polysaccharides and polyphenolic compounds varies extensively within the developing tissues (Khanuja et al., 1999). Therefore, an efficient protocol is required for isolation of quality RNA from all parts of full grown jute plant. Here, a robust plant RNA isolation protocol, suitable for different types of tissue of jute ranging from root to developing fruits, derived from CTAB method was described (Doyle and Doyle, 1987).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant sample

Plants of the tossa jute (*Corchorus olitorius* variety O-4) were grown in an experimental field at Jute Agricultural Experimental Station, Manikganj, Bangladesh. The root, stem, bark, stick and leaf tissues were sampled from 45 days plants. Flowers were collected just after blooming and developing fruits were collected at 15 days post-anthesis. All samples were snap-frozen in liquid  $\text{N}_2$  and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To check the general effectiveness of our protocol, RNA was extracted from the leaves of some other malvaceous plants

including *Hibiscus cannabinas*, *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, and *Abelmoschus esculentus* collected from Jute Agricultural Experimental Station, Manikganj, Bangladesh.

### Reagents and solutions

Extraction buffer 100 mM Tris-HCl [Invitrogen, USA], pH 8.0; 1.4 M NaCl [Carl Roth, Germany]; 20 mM EDTA [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany], pH 8.0; 2% (w/v) CTAB [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]; 4% (w/v) Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVPP) [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]; 2% (w/v) Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]; 4% (v/v)  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany] (to be added just before use); Phenol [Carl Roth, Germany]:Chloroform [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]:isoamyl alcohol [Carl Roth, Germany] (PCI; 25:24:1, v/v; freshly prepared); 10 M LiCl [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]; 2% SDS [Invitrogen, USA]; 5 M Potassium acetate [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany], pH 4.8; Absolute Ethanol [Merck, Germany]; Isopropanol [Sigma-Aldrich, Germany]; 70% ethanol. The chemicals used were of molecular biology grade and solutions were made with 0.1% v/v diethylpyrocarbonate (DEPC) [Carl Roth, Germany] treated water and consumables were RNase-free as well.

### Isolation procedure

One gram frozen tissue of each sample was ground to a very fine powder in liquid nitrogen with a cooled mortar and pestle. The powder was transferred immediately (before thawing) to 20 ml Extraction Buffer (EB) kept in a 50 ml falcon tube which was pre-heated at  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$  in water bath. The sample in extraction buffer was homogenized by vigorous shaking followed by incubation at  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min with occasional shaking. After incubation, the homogenate was centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at room temperature. The supernatant was collected carefully without disturbing the pellet and transferred to 50 ml tube containing 10 ml EB buffer and inverted to mix the contents. After 10 min incubation at room temperature, the content was centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at room temperature and supernatant was collected carefully without disturbing the pellet in 50 ml tube containing 5 ml EB buffer and inverted to mix the contents followed by 10 min incubation at room temperature. Again the content was centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at room temperature. This time the supernatant was collected and kept on ice until further steps. One tenth volume of absolute ethanol and 1/15 volume potassium acetate (5 M, pH 4.8) were added to the tube and mixed by inversion. Then an equal volume of PCI (25:24:1, v/v) was added, shaken vigorously by hand for 10 s and the content was turned into milky white in colour. The mixer was centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the aqueous phase was collected in a 15 ml falcon tube kept on ice. And then, 1/4 volume of 10 M LiCl was added, mixed gently, incubated for 1 h at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$  (at this stage, sample can be stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  if it is required to perform the rest of the procedure later) and centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The supernatant was discarded and the pellet was dissolved in 1 ml SDS (2%, w/v). An equal volume of PCI (25:24:1, v/v) was added and mixed well by inversion followed by centrifugation at 13,000 g for 20 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The resulting upper aqueous phase was transferred to a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube. Then, an equal volume of ice-cold 2-propanol was added and mixed well (at this point 2-propanol added sample can be stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  if it is required to perform the rest of the procedure later). After incubation for 1 h at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the content was centrifuged at 13,000 g for 20 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the supernatant was discarded. The final RNA pellet was washed twice with 70% ethanol by centrifugation at 13,000 g for 10 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After confirmation of complete removal of ethanol by air-drying, the pellet was dissolved in nuclease free water.

This isolation procedure basically differs from traditional CTAB

based method in such ways: two extra wash with EB buffer, adding absolute ethanol and potassium acetate during first phenol: chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (PCI) step, first precipitation with LiCl followed by dissolving first pellet with SDS. All those modifications were done to reduce the amount of mucilage, polysaccharides and polyphenolic compounds present in different parts of jute plant as well as to ensure the purity of RNA.

### Assessment of RNA quantity and integrity

The RNA quantity and purity were checked both spectrophotometrically using NanoDrop® (ND2000c, Thermo Scientific, USA) and by electrophoresis followed by visualization on a denaturing formaldehyde 1.2% agarose gel using Molecular Imager® Gel DOC™ XR+ with Image Lab™ Software (Bio Rad Laboratories, Inc., USA). Quality and integrity of isolated RNA was also verified electrophoretically on an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer with RNA 6000 Nano LabChip (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA).

### cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR analysis

RNA extracted from the samples was treated with DNase I amplification grade (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany) to remove any traces of genomic DNA according to the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was synthesized from 1.0 µg of total RNA using the RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc) containing oligo dT primers according to manufacturer's instructions. Freshly prepared cDNAs were amplified by GAPDH gene specific primers (Forward primer 5'- GAAGGATCGGTAGGTTGGTG -3' and Reverse primer 5'-CCTTGACTTTGAGCTCGTGA -3'). The primer was designed using Genscript primer designing tool with default parameters. PCR reactions were carried out in a final volume of 25 µl reaction mixture containing 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3), 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 200 µM dNTP, 0.2 µM each primer, 2.0 µl cDNA and 0.5 U of Taq DNA polymerase. PCR was performed using thermo cycler condition which was initiated by a hot start at 95°C for 5 min followed by 30 cycles of 95°C for 30 s, 50°C for 30 s and 72°C for 45 s with a 72°C for 5 min final extension. Minus RT control PCR was carried out with 0.5 µg of total RNA instead of cDNA to check DNA contamination. In addition, a H<sub>2</sub>O control (without template) was set to check whether the PCR signal is resulting from specific cDNA amplification. The PCR products were resolved on a 1.5% agarose gel and visualized under ultraviolet light.

### Quantitative polymerase chain reaction with reverse transcription (RT-qPCR)

RT-qPCR amplification was performed in a LightCycler®480 Instrument II (Roche) using the SYBR Green I Master (Roche) according to manufacturer's instructions. PCR amplification was carried out in a 20-µl volume containing 10-µl of 2X SYBR Green I Master mix, 10 ng cDNA and 0.4 µM of each primer. Thermo cycling conditions were set as an enzyme activation step at 95°C for 5 min followed by 40 cycles consisting of 10 s of denaturation at 95°C, 10 s of annealing at 50°C and 20 s of elongation at 72°C.

### NGS data generation from isolated RNA

Sequencing library was prepared using TruSeq Stranded mRNA Library Prep Kit (Illumina Inc., USA) according to manufacturer's instructions. mRNA was isolated from 1 µg of total RNA using poly-T oligo attached magnetic beads with two rounds of purification. The purified mRNA was fragmented and primed with random

hexamers. First strand cDNA was synthesized using SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase followed by the synthesis of second-strand cDNA. After end repair and the ligation of adaptors, the products were enriched and amplified by PCR. The amplified cDNA libraries were purified by Agencourt AMPure XP beads and assessed on an Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 system. After validation and quantification, the final cDNA libraries were sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq™ 2500 sequencing platform.

### Bioinformatic analysis

After the removal of the adapters (by Trimmomatic tool version 0.36 with default parameters) from the raw reads, low quality and duplicate reads were filtered using SICLE (Q30+; Min Len=50 bp). HISAT2 2.1.0 was used to map the filtered reads with reference genome assembly and coding sequences of *C. olitorius* (Wang et al., 2008) with the parameters '-mp 4,1 --sp 1,0.5 --score-min L,0,-0.8'.

### Data availability

The RNA-Seq data were deposited in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under SRP049494.

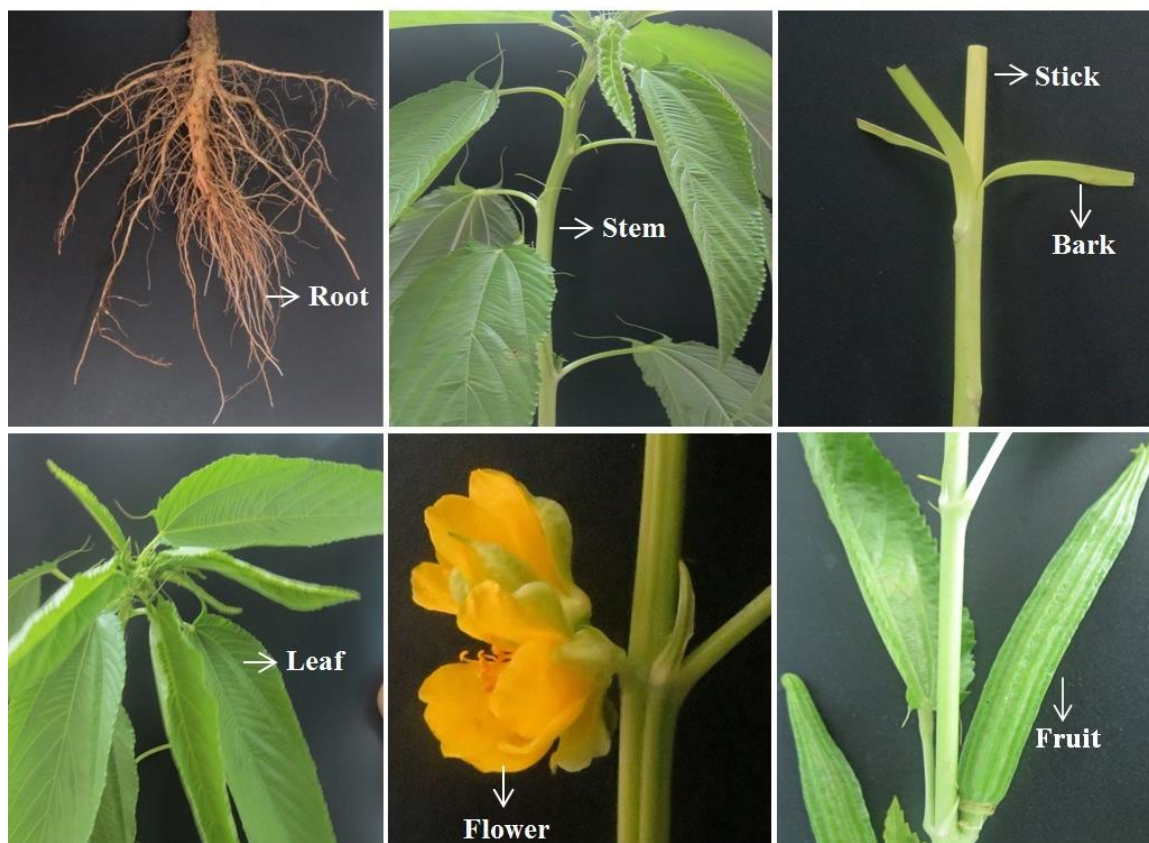
## RESULTS

### Quality, integrity and quantity of extracted RNA

RNA was isolated from various parts of fully-grown jute plant such as root, stem, bark, stick, leaf, flower and fruit (Figure 1) using the CTAB based RNA extraction protocol. The amount of total extracted RNA varied in different parts ranging from 68.32 to 148.01 µg/g tissue (Table 1). Different amount of water and mucilage in different parts of the plant may cause the variation.

The quality of isolated RNA was assessed by multiple independent methods. The 1.2% agarose gel electrophoresis (Figure 2) showed that the brightness of 28S rRNA was significantly prominent than 18S rRNA. It demonstrates that the extracted RNAs were not degraded and there was no detectable amount of gDNA contamination. In addition, from the Bioanalyzer analysis, it was observed that the ratio of 28S rRNA and 18S rRNA for different samples were between 2.1 and 2.6 which indicates good quality of RNA (Table 1).

The spectrophotometer analysis showed that the A260/280 and A260/230 absorbance ratio of RNA samples are >2.0 and between 1.90 and 2.37, respectively (Table 1). The A260/280 absorbance ratios represent the high purity of isolated RNAs whereas the A260/230 absorbance ratios indicate that RNAs were not contaminated by polyphenolics and polysaccharides. Though A260/230 absorbance ratio of root little bit lower but the other quality parameters such as RNA gel electrophoresis, yield per g tissue and RIN in bioanalyzer analysis were good. RNA extracted with modified method produced better results compared to CTAB, Trizol and GNTC according to spectrophotometrical and agarose gel electrophoresis analysis (Table 2 and Figure S1).



**Figure 1.** Different parts of jute plant used for RNA isolation.

**Table 1.** Quantity and quality of RNA extracted from different parts of field grown jute plants

Sample	Yield ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ )	A 260/280	A 260/230	RIN	28S/18S
Root	148.01 $\pm$ 5.02	2.04 $\pm$ 0.02	1.90 $\pm$ 0.05	8.8 $\pm$ 0.02	2.1 $\pm$ 0.02
Stem	108.64 $\pm$ 3.33	2.07 $\pm$ 0.03	2.36 $\pm$ 0.09	8.8 $\pm$ 0.01	2.3 $\pm$ 0.03
Bark	104.18 $\pm$ 4.17	2.05 $\pm$ 0.01	2.35 $\pm$ 0.06	7.8 $\pm$ 0.03	2.6 $\pm$ 0.02
Stick	69.74 $\pm$ 2.01	2.05 $\pm$ 0.04	2.37 $\pm$ 0.08	8.2 $\pm$ 0.03	2.6 $\pm$ 0.01
Leaf	98.99 $\pm$ 3.93	2.10 $\pm$ 0.03	2.35 $\pm$ 0.03	8.7 $\pm$ 0.02	2.2 $\pm$ 0.01
Flower	107.29 $\pm$ 4.32	2.06 $\pm$ 0.05	2.33 $\pm$ 0.04	8.2 $\pm$ 0.01	2.1 $\pm$ 0.01
Fruit	68.32 $\pm$ 3.79	2.03 $\pm$ 0.03	2.34 $\pm$ 0.02	7.3 $\pm$ 0.01	2.1 $\pm$ 0.01

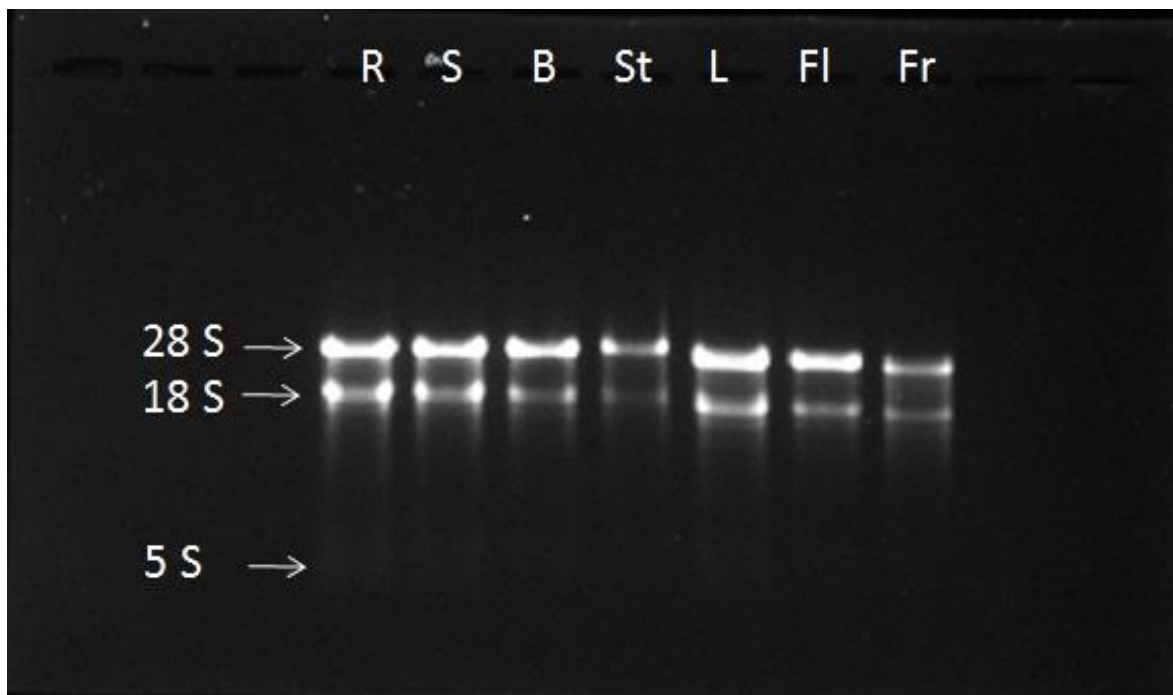
Data represent mean  $\pm$  SD of three replicates.

The RNA integrity was measured using Bioanalyzer metrics (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA). The obtained RNA Integrity Numbers (RIN) were between 7.3 and 8.8 (Table 1) whereas RNA with a RIN value above 7.0 is considered good enough for next-generation sequencing (Islam et al., 2017). A representative electropherogram of RNA isolated from different parts of jute plant are as shown in Figure 3 with clear peaks of rRNAs, indicating no degradation of the RNAs.

## Downstream analysis results

### RT-PCR

Single-stranded cDNA was successfully synthesized from extracted RNA samples using the RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) containing oligo dT primer. Glyceraldehyde-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (GAPDH) gene was amplified from synthesized cDNA by PCR (Figure 4). Fragments for



**Figure 2.** Electrophoresis of RNAs isolated by the CTAB based RNA extraction protocol. Total RNA from different parts of jute plants, resolved by electrophoresis through a formaldehyde-agarose gel and visualized with ethidium bromide staining. R-Root; S-Stem; B-Bark; St-Stick; L- Leaf; Fl-Flower; Fr-Fruit.

**Table 2.** Quantity and quality of RNA extracted from leaves using different methods.

Method	Yield ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ )	A 260/280	A 260/230
GNTC	2.76	1.09	0.92
Trizol	3.18	0.94	0.40
CTAB	12.69	1.61	1.34
Modified	98.99	2.10	2.35

GAPDH were obtained as per designed primer (159 bp) in all of the samples, indicating that the isolated RNA is good enough for RT-PCR. No band associated with genomic DNA contamination was observed when RNA was used as template.

### RT-qPCR

qRT-PCR was successfully performed with housekeeping gene, GAPDH for further evaluation of the integrity of extracted RNA. A dissociation curve with single peak ensured that the primers amplified specific fragment (Figure 5). In addition, PCR efficiency of GAPDH was determined from the standard curve based on serial dilution. The efficiency values were from 92.72 to 99.04% with good linear regression ( $R^2 > 0.99$ ) which indicates

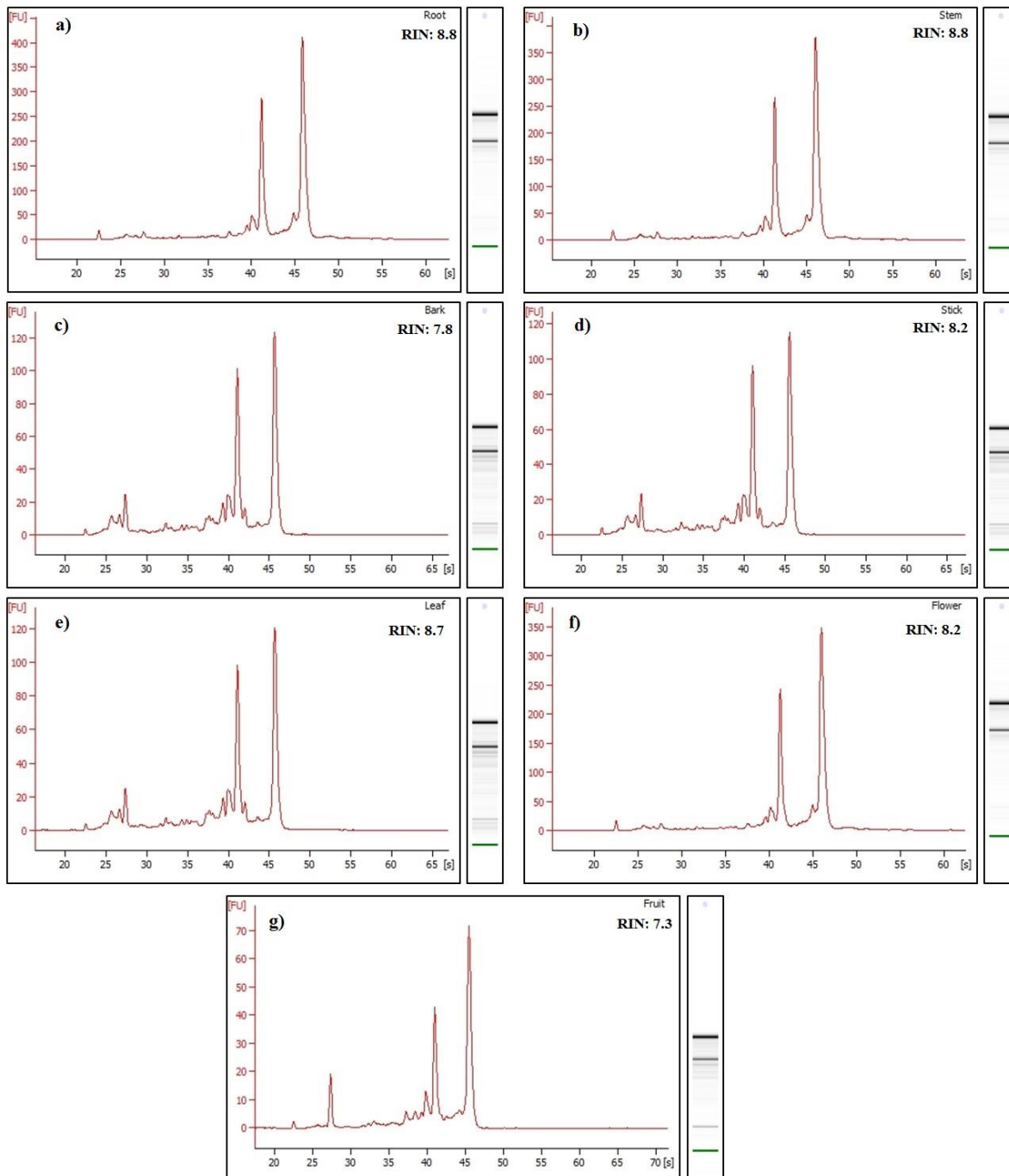
that there were no PCR inhibitors present in the RNA samples (Figure S2).

Each PCR reaction included minus RT and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (no template) control to check for potential genomic DNA and reagent contamination. All samples were amplified in technical and biological triplicates.

### NGS data generation

A total of ~53 Gbp RNA-seq data were generated from three independent biological replica samples of jute stem using Illumina HiSeq 2500. About 94 and 83% filtered reads were mapped to reference genome and coding sequences, respectively. Among 37,031 predicted genes in *C. olerius* genome (Islam et al., 2017), 27,500 genes were found in RNA-seq data (Supplementary Table 1).





**Figure 3.** The differences of 18S and 28S ribosomal RNA peak profiles and the RNA integrity numbers (RIN) for different parts of full grown jute plants. a) Root, b) Stem, c) Bark, d) Stick, e) Leaf, f) Flower, and g) Fruit.

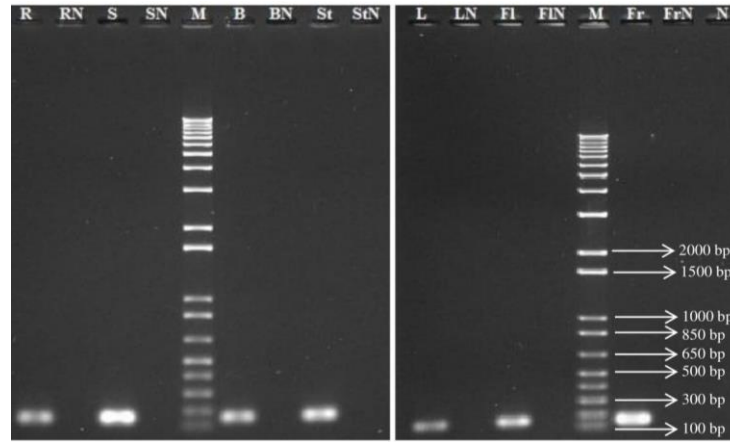
### **Applicability in malvaceous plant species other than jute**

The described protocol for RNA isolation can also be applied for various mucilage rich plant species. This protocol was used for four malvaceous plant species, *H. cannabinas*, *H. sabdariffa*, *H. rosa-sinensis*, and *A.*

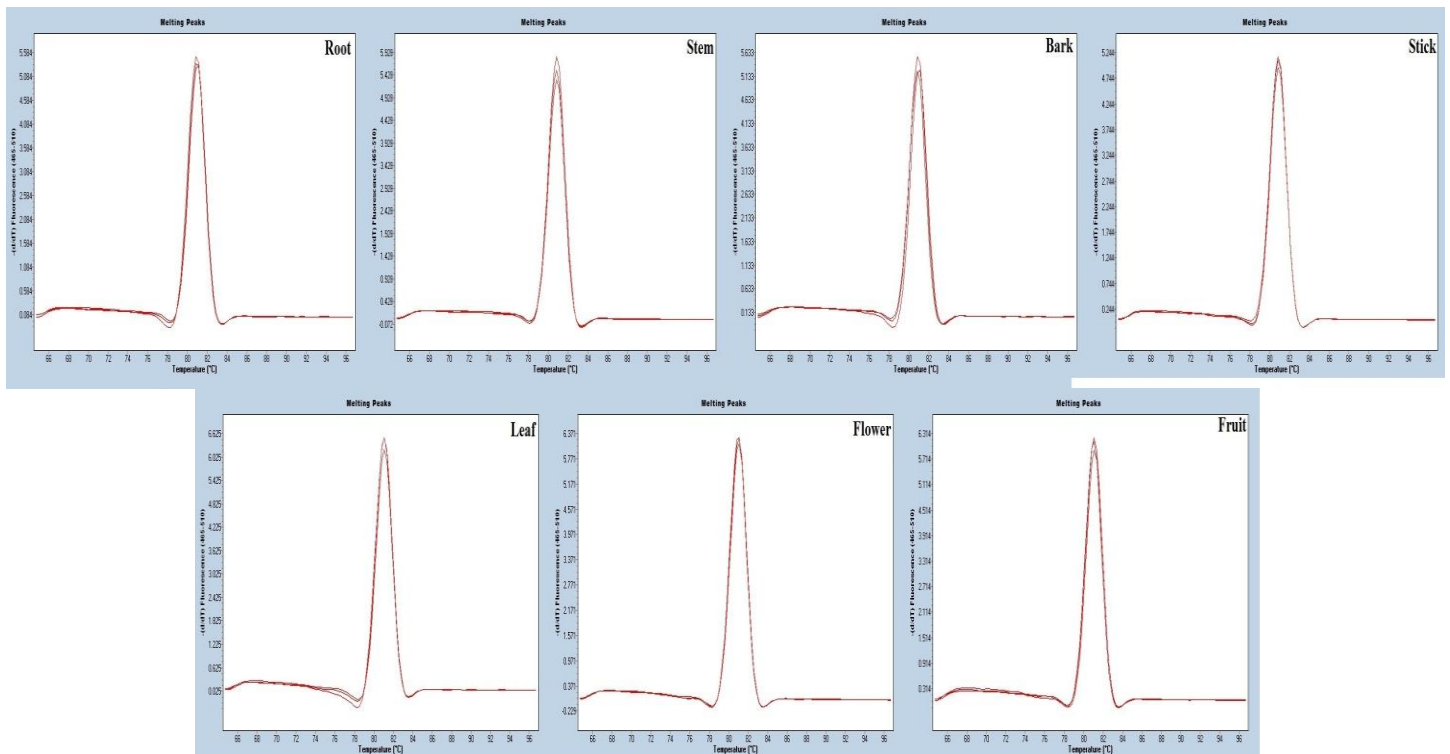
*esculentus* and found excellent results (Figure S3 and Supplementary Table 2).

### **DISCUSSION**

Trizol, GNTC protocol and CTAB method were initially tried



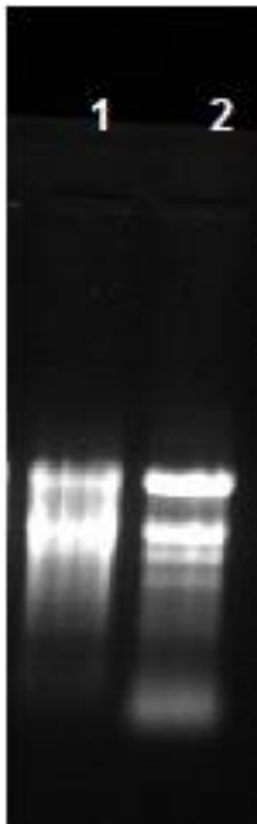
**Figure 4.** Agarose gel electrophoresis of the RT-PCR from RNAs of different parts of jute plant. RT-PCR amplification of GAPDH gene. R-Root cDNA; RN-Root RNA; S-Stem cDNA; SN-Stem RNA; B-Bark cDNA; BN-Bark RNA; St-Stick cDNA; StN-Stick RNA; L-Leaf cDNA; LN-Leaf RNA; FI-Flower cDNA; FIN-Flower RNA; Fr-Fruit cDNA; FrN-Fruit RNA and N-H<sub>2</sub>O control.



**Figure 5.** Dissociation curve of GAPDH gene after qRT-PCR reactions using RNAs obtained from different parts of jute plant. X-axis represents temperature (°C) and y-axis represents fluorescence

for RNA extraction from different parts of fully-grown jute plant. Due to presence of high polysaccharide and other viscous materials in the samples, both Trizol and GNTC protocol failed to collect desired supernatant from phase

separation step resulting RNA recovery cumbersome. RNA extracted with modified method produced better results compared to CTAB, Trizol and GNTC according to spectrophotometrical analysis (Table 2). Similarly,



**Figure 6.** Effect of extra CTAB buffer wash on RNA quality. Lane 1: Single wash; Lane 2: Double wash.

electrophoresis in agarose gel shows that the quality and quantity of RNA obtained from CTAB, Trizol and GNTC method is not adequate enough (Figure S1).

Therefore, the CTAB method was modified. A high-strength CTAB solution was used as a lysis buffer with a higher concentration of PVPP, PVP and  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol. It ensured rapid removal of phenolic compounds, which otherwise oxidize and bind to RNA molecules. The combination of PVP and PVPP produced top aqueous phase immediately displayed transparency, indicating successful elimination of pigments and most of polyphenolics. In order to reduce the amount of mucilage, two additional CTAB buffer washes were included in our protocol which could successfully eliminate pigments and most polyphenolics (Figure 6). Further, in first purification step of this protocol, 1/10 V absolute ethanol and 1/15 V potassium acetate were added to the supernatant along with phenol: chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (PCI). Absolute ethanol and KAc effectively precipitated residual polysaccharides (Yockteng et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2008). LiCl was used in the first precipitation step of the protocol to reduce co-precipitation of polysaccharides with RNA. It is an important step as LiCl does not

precipitate DNA, proteins and phenolic compounds. In addition, 2% SDS was used to dissolve precipitated RNA followed by second PCI extraction as SDS effectively disrupts protein-nucleic acid interaction and protect RNA from ribonucleases. After this disruption, protein was denatured by PCI and became insoluble in aqueous solution (Rio et al., 2010), resulting in good quality RNA with no protein contaminants (Table 1).

There are a limited number of published methods to isolate RNA from jute plant. For instance, Mahmood et al. (2011) reported the procedure to isolate RNA from jute seedling and both Samanta et al. (2011) and Choudhary et al. (2016) illustrated RNA isolation methods from jute stem only. However, the protocol, claimed by Samanta et al. (2011), requires ultra-centrifuge facility, which is a very complex and expensive setup and might not be available in regular laboratories, and costly reagent CsCl for purification of RNA. In contrast, the procedure described here is highly reproducible and easily adoptable in usual laboratory conditions and suitable for isolating RNA from plant species and different tissues rich in polysaccharides and phenolic compounds. To our knowledge, this is the first report of a single method which can be utilized to isolate high quality RNA from different parts of field grown jute plant. Furthermore, using this protocol, high quality RNA has been extracted from different plant species in Malvaceae (*H. cannabinas*, *H. sabdariffa*, *H. rosasinensis*, and *A. esculentus*) containing abundant polyphenols and polysaccharides.

## Conclusion

This method is highly reproducible and easily adoptable in usual laboratory conditions and suitable for isolating RNA from different developing parts of jute plant. The RNA obtained by using this method can be used directly for subsequent downstream applications including cDNA library construction, qRT-PCR and RNA-seq data generation without further purification. The method also applied to other polyphenols and polysaccharides rich malvaceous plant.

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## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.



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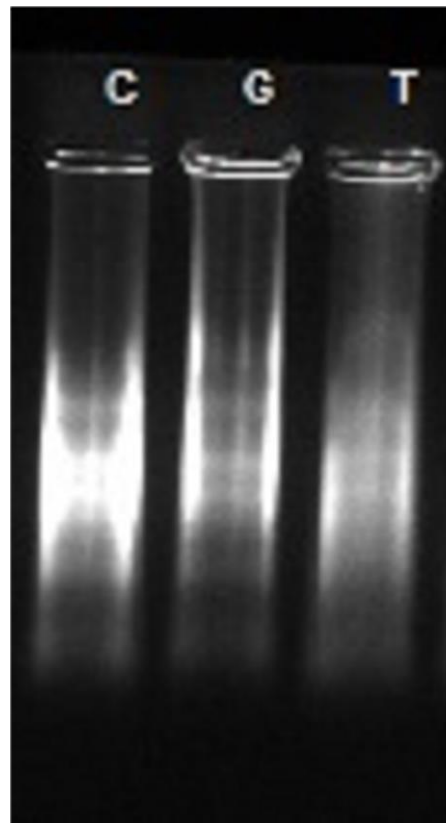
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**Supplementary Table 1.** RNA-seq data generated from young stem.

Sample Name	Total reads	Filtered reads	Mapped data		
			Genome (%)	CDs (%)	No. of genes
Young stem 1	2 X 31,730,052	2 X 28,926,178	94.16	83.82	27,866
Young stem 2	2 X 32,276,920	2 X 28,898,789	93.82	83.76	27,759
Young stem 3	2 X 27,897,152	2 X 25,100,964	94.12	83.79	27,801

**Supplementary Table 2.** Quantity and quality of RNA extracted from leaves of different malvaceous plants.

Sample	Conc (ng/ $\mu$ l)	Yield ( $\mu$ g/g)	A 260/280	A 260/230
<i>Hibiscus cannabinas</i>	836.6	75.09	2.03	2.42
<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	571.5	67.14	2.03	2.48
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	971.8	79.15	2.02	2.44
<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	2224.2	116.72	1.96	2.21

**Figure S1** Electrophoresis of RNAs isolated by CTAB, GNTC, TriZol method. C, CTAB; G, GNTC; T, TriZol.

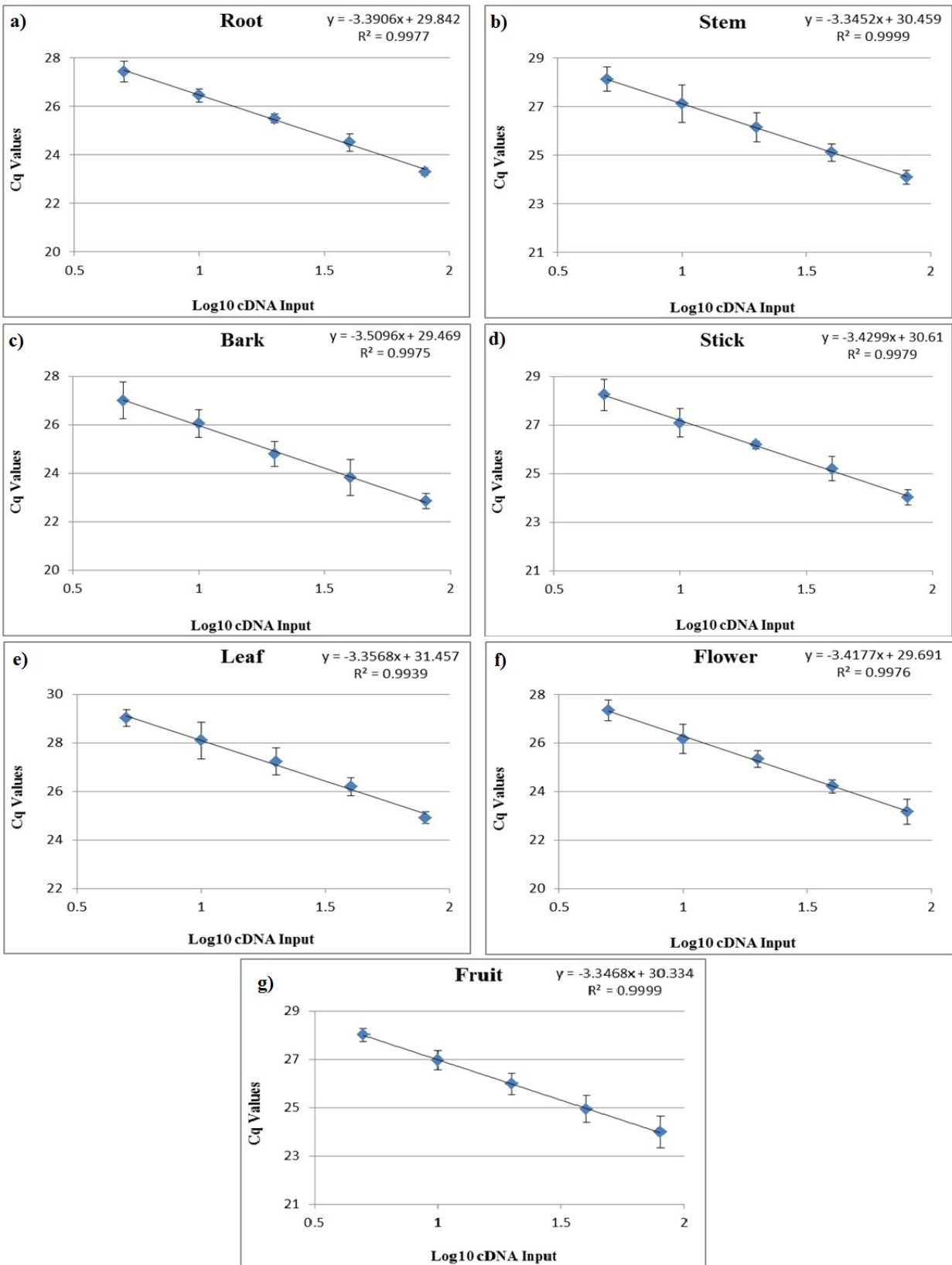
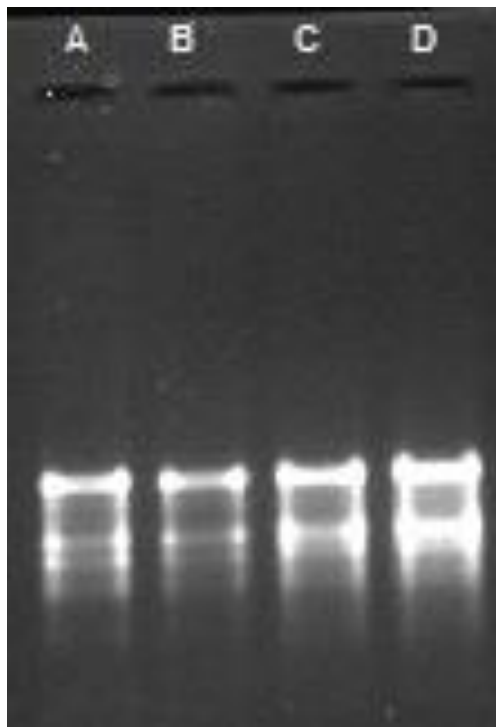


Figure S2 PCR efficiency analysis in qRT-PCR. . a, Root; b, Stem; c, Bark; d, Stick; e, Leaf; f, Flower and g, Fruit.



**Figure S3** Electrophoresis of RNAs isolated by the modified CTAB method. Total RNA isolated from leaves of different malvaceous plants. A, *Hibiscus cannabinas*; B, *Hibiscus sabdariffa*; C, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*; D, *Abelmoschus esculentus*.