

How to Identify MAAs in the Umbellifer Collections

Charlotte led a brief discussion around the experiences of the Brassica working group as one of the four AEGIS exemplar groups. She described the process by which potential MAAs were selected from the *Brassica rapa* collections listed in the European Brassica database in 2008. Country of origin was the primary criterion to better fit the requirements of various international treaties (CBD, ITPGRFA). The accession name field was the primary indication of the uniqueness of a particular accession. The workshop participants felt that F1 hybrids could not be included in AEGIS as there are currently no means to regenerate them (unless the parental lines have also been donated to genebanks but this happens very rarely for commercial reasons). Following on from the wider working group discussions in Catania in 2009, it was proposed to just look at the *Daucus* collections as a model for the umbellifers and then expand the process to the other crops once it was refined. The output of this process would be a list of potential MAAs which could then be communicated with collection curators for comment and amendment.

Workshop participants spent some time discussing how relevant each of the Multi Crop Passport Descriptors used in EURISCO was to the process of identifying potential MAAs. The following descriptors were thought to be particularly useful:

- Acquisition date (assuming the oldest accession is the most original)
- Sample Status (important to know if wild/landrace as these will be treated differently to cultivars. However, 1368/4671 *Daucus* accessions in EURISCO have no data in this field)
- Collection Number
- Country of origin (however 427/4671 do not have any data)
- Other Number
- Collection site (important for landraces)
- Donor code
- Donor number
- Accession name (like *Brassica rapa*, the primary indication of 'uniqueness')

Other information like the number of regeneration cycles an accession has been through would also assist in selecting potential MAAs – this is not in EURISCO but could be provided by collection curators as required. Knowledge of the variability of crop types (for carrots e.g. 'chantenay', 'Autumn King') is also required to make an assessment of how many MAAs would be required to adequately cover the diversity whilst avoiding too much duplication. Where accessions represent selections from a given variety, there was a feeling that these could be of lower priority to AEGIS as the allelic diversity in the selection would be present in the original variety.