

Report to the Ninth ECP/GR Steering Committee meeting (October 2003)

Working Group on *Malus/Pyrus*

Progress made by the Group during Phase VI (1999 - 2003)

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
<p>Second meeting of the Working Group on <i>Malus/Pyrus</i>, Dresden-Pillnitz, Germany, May 2002</p> <p>Extra meeting organized during the "EUCARPIA" Symposium on Fruit Breeding & Genetics, Angers, France, September 2003</p>	
Documentation	
Development of European <i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> databases and collection of passport data	<p>Creation of <i>Pyrus</i> database and accessibility on Internet in partially downloadable and in a searchable form.</p> <p>Data on over 9,862 accessions from 48 collections held in 18 countries</p> <p>Development of a specific software for the management of the recurrent synonymous problem of <i>Pyrus cvs</i> stored in the ECP/GR Database (Poster presented to the Angers EUCARPIA Symposium, September 2003)</p> <p>Development of the <i>Malus</i> database and accessibility on Internet in downloadable form. Data on over 20,000 accessions from 13 countries</p>
Include agreed characterization and evaluation data into the <i>Pyrus</i> database	Descriptors proposed
Characterization	
Improvement of the level of characterization and evaluation data	<p>Participation in the European project D.A.R.E. (Durable Apple Resistance for Europe). This project identified disease resistant genotypes in the European collections.</p> <p>Development of a preliminary collaboration between some <i>Malus</i> curators on the use of common molecular markers for the characterization of the collections</p>
Evaluation	
Definition of priority evaluation descriptors for <i>Malus</i> , including the evaluation protocols	Seven descriptors and their protocols defined (Susceptibility to scab, powdery mildew and <i>Nectria</i> canker; fruit firmness, sweetness of the flesh, flesh juiciness and fruit storage capacity)
Definition of priority evaluation descriptors for <i>Pyrus</i> , including the evaluation protocols	Eight minimum descriptors have been proposed which must be formally adopted by the WG

Specific objective	Achievements
Sharing of responsibilities	
Increase collaboration for emergency conservation of endangered collections	A few apple genotype-s of the Russian Maikop collections have been duplicated from emergency rejuvenation at IPK -Pillnitz
Increase sharing of responsibilities for conservation in decentralized European <i>Malus</i> , and <i>Pyrus</i> collections by defining European accessions with assigned responsibility for conservation	Concept of a European collection defined and a number of <i>Malus</i> accessions identified as belonging to a decentralized European collection

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Plan of action for Phase VII (2004 - 2009)

Specific objective	Action	Timeframe	Request of support from ECP/GR for specific actions	
			Funding requested	Type of support requested
<u>Meetings</u> : Maintain the cohesion of the group through WG meetings and develop efficient link with other Fruit WG	Holding at least two WG meetings during Phase VII and one together with other Fruit WG's but devoted to specific common topics.	2005, 2007 and 2006 (joint meeting)	YES	Funds, logistic support, technical support during the meeting
<u>Documentation</u> : Further development of the <i>Malus</i> & <i>Pyrus</i> DB Include data on wild species collections in the <i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> databases	-Include further passport data into the <i>Malus</i> DB and start to include such data for the <i>Pyrus</i> DB -Define protocols and include pictures into the DB -Further development of the <i>Pyrus</i> synonym software ("SynoPyrus") and making it available on Internet - Development of a <i>Malus</i> synonym software ("SynoMalus") -Make a link with EUFORGEN's Noble Hardwoods Group for including wild relatives ssp. data in the DB	2004-2008 2005-2008 2004-2005 2005-2007 2005-2008	YES (for invited members participating to EUFORGEN meeting)	Logistic support
<u>Characterization/Evaluation</u> : Study diversity of <i>Malus</i> (and <i>Pyrus</i> ?) at the European level with evaluation, characterisation data and molecular markers (SSR's) to be included in the DB with the view of a better utilization of the PGR Introduce evaluation and Characterisation data in the <i>Malus</i> and <i>Pyrus</i> DB	Apply for funding through the new EC Regulation on genetic resources perhaps in collaboration with Prunus WG Define common minimum descriptor lists and stimulate their application in the collections	1 st call for proposals 2004-2008		Logistic support Logistic support

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<u>Sharing responsibilities :</u> Implementation of the Decentralized European <i>Malus</i> & <i>Pyrus</i> Collection Study strategies for long term conservation	National lists to be defined and included in DB	2004-2008		Logistic support
	Set up an <i>ad hoc</i> group making a study on this topic	2004-2005		Documentation support
<u>Collecting:</u> Explore possibilities for joint collecting missions to Central and East Asia	Apply for funding through the new EC Regulation on genetic resources in collaboration with <i>Prunus</i> WG	1st call for proposals	YES? (via Vavilov Fellowship?)	Logistic support
<u>Dissemination:</u> Maintain momentum between meetings Raise awareness of public and scientific community	-Distribute Newsletter, perhaps in association or common newsletter with <i>Prunus</i> WG and/or with Eucarpia Fruit Breeding Section	2004 and 2005		
	-Present posters at Symposia			
	-Elaborate in collaboration with other Fruit WG a common leaflet for children and for the public describing the diversity of fruits and their importance for future life	2006-2008	YES	Funds, logistic support, technical support
	-Elaborate in collaboration with other Fruit WG and NGOs a common technical leaflet for the practical management of a coordinated network of "on farm" and <i>In situ</i> conservation orchards	2008	YES	Funds, logistic support, technical support

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