

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

Working Group on Umbellifer Crops

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

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
Gen Res meeting in Cesena, Italy, in 2000 <i>Ad hoc</i> meeting on Umbellifer genetic resources, jointly with Gen Res carrot project in Edinburgh, UK, 2001	Participation of Non-EU partners in Gen Res meetings
Documentation	
Implement the European Umbellifer Data Base (EUDB) for 9-targeted genera	Up to date, the EUDB includes passport data for nearly 9,000 accessions (65 % <i>Daucus</i>) from 16 institutions in 12 countries plus the Nordic Gene Bank. The database is available both searchable on-line and as a downloadable file
Obtain an overview of the content of the European collections and the activities of the national programme	The number of accessions recorded now totals 16079, an increase of 3780 accessions in comparison to the year 2000
Characterization	
Improve level of characterization of collections	Mainly within Gen Res project, 3569 accessions out of a total 9101 accessions were characterized/evaluated. The percentage of accessions characterized varies widely for the different crops, e. g carrot 76%, <i>Petroselinum</i> 9% and <i>Apium</i> 6%
Regeneration	
Regenerate threatened accessions for the VIR collection, particularly of carrot	More than 150 accessions regenerated (collaboration particularly successful with 4 national programmes: France, Italy, Poland and UK)
Identify needs for regeneration of threatened accessions	Needs identified for carrot/ <i>Daucus</i> . Not yet for the other 8 genera covered by the WG
Sharing of responsibilities	
Assess the level of safety-duplication in the collections and identify other genebanks willing to collaborate in the process	Several offers for 'black box' storage were made, but level of safety duplication is still very low
Identify Most Original Samples and duplicate material	Yellow-rooted carrot in European collections assessed using molecular markers
Collecting	
Review collecting requirements and facilitate joint collecting missions	Samples collected in different European countries (Czech Republic, France, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Turkey) individually or in collaboration with USDA

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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> Develop a new GENRES Carrot project Review WG actions and future inputs	One <i>ad hoc</i> meeting	2004	YES	Only funds for logistic & technical support from IPGRI during the meeting Funds for logistic & technical support from IPGRI during the meeting, & technical support from IPGRI after the meeting
	1 st WG meeting	2006	YES	
<u>Documentation:</u> Collection of passport data, use of information and ecogeographical survey	Include data from accessions reported in 2003 survey (16079) in the EUDB, currently ~9000, hopefully via EURISCO			
<u>Characterization:</u> Crop sub-groups to develop minimum characterization descriptors and workplans for <i>Anethum</i> , <i>Apium</i> , <i>Carum</i> , <i>Chaerophyllum</i> , <i>Coriandrum</i> , <i>Foeniculum</i> , <i>Pastinaca</i> and <i>Petroselinum</i> genera	Identify specialist subgroups to develop minimum characterisation descriptors for the 8 genera			
<u>Characterization:</u> Improve access to characterization data	Include a field in the database indicating the presence of characterization data. A link to multiple data sets can be included in the EUDB			
<u>Evaluation:</u> The group to collaborate with research in national programmes, where possible, and utilize results to increase the efficiency of conservation and collection management				
<u>Tracing duplicates:</u> Identify the Most Original Samples for all wild taxa, also using molecular techniques	Study provenience data in EUDB for wild taxa			

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<u>Regeneration</u> : Carry out emergency regeneration of threatened collections. Assess the requirement for regeneration in the 9 target genera				
<u>Safety-duplication</u> : Absolute priority to increase level of safety-duplication	Identify material not safety duplicated, define reasons & encourage curators to act & promote black box agreements			
<u>Wild relatives</u> : Promote both the collecting of wild taxa and their conservation <i>in situ</i> (& taxonomy, see below)	Plan for an ecogeographic survey of wild taxa			
<u>Submission of collaborative project proposal</u> : Collection of high quality passport, utilization and ecogeographic data for all the Umbellifer genera, in order to provide the baseline data to fill gaps in the collections for wild and cultivated material; identify protected areas of potential value for <i>in situ</i> conservation; develop proposal for regional on-farm projects in the context of socioeconomic development in tandem with landrace conservation	Apply for funding through the new EC Regulation on genetic resources	2 nd call of proposals		
<u>Taxonomy</u> : Improve accuracy of taxonomic identification of the collections	Identify taxonomic experts willing to assist the group & continue studies on taxonomy in national programmes, FRA, GRC, etc.			

Prepared by: Working Group Chair: Dave Astley

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