Apricot core collection assessment using morphological characterization

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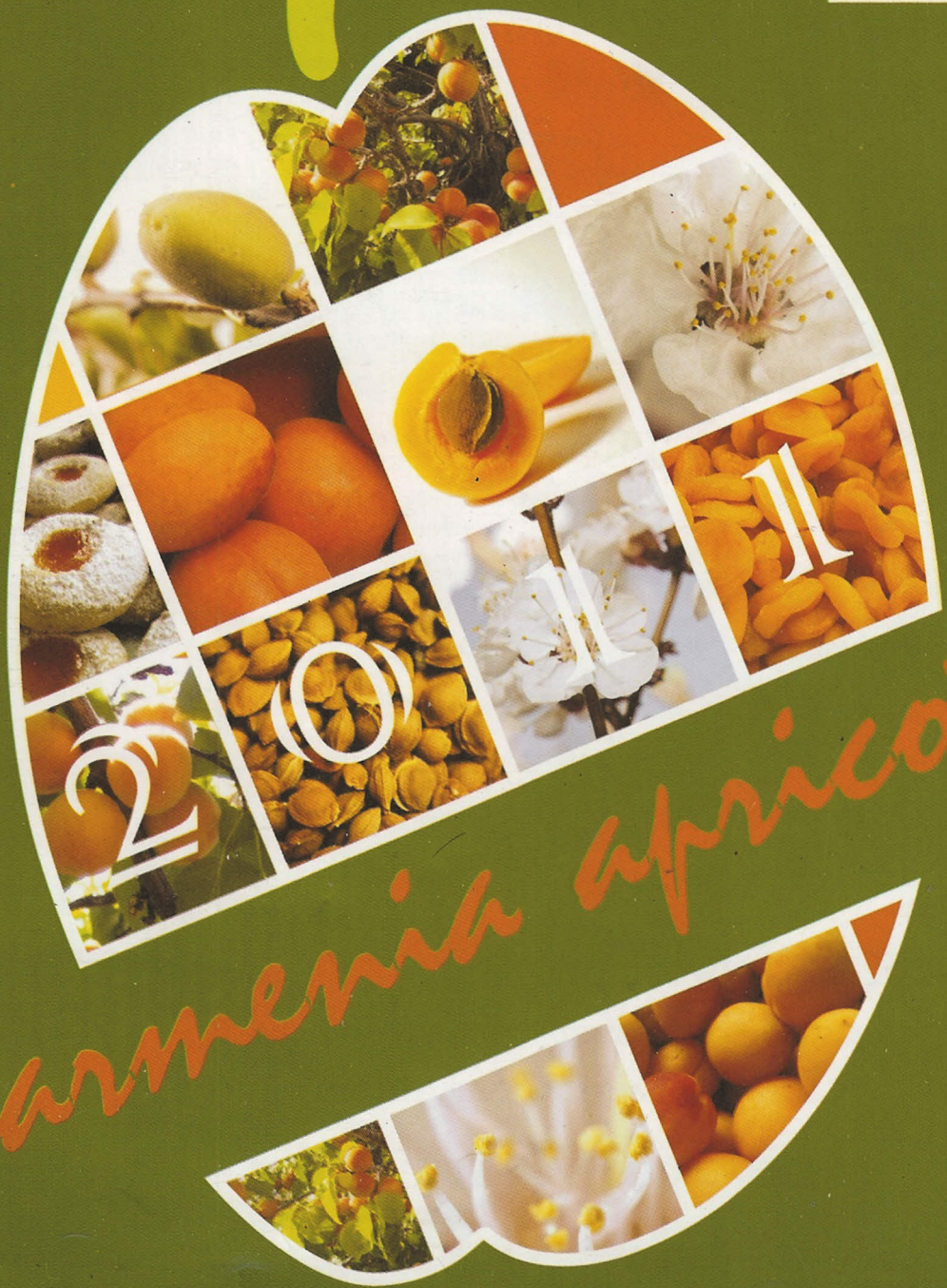

armenia apricot

Poster

APRICOT CORE COLLECTION ASSESSMENT USING MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION

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To study the morphological variability of Tunisian apricot germplasm, 112 accessions corresponding to seventy six grafted cultivars and thirty six Bargougs propagated by seeds were collected from the principal areas of apricot cultivation. Thirty-four morphological characters concerning trees, leaves and fruits, were exploited to analyze the phenotypic variability. All the studied characters were polymorphic and showed a large variability among the Tunisian apricot germplasm. Using maximization strategy algorithm (Gouesnard et al. 2001), data analysis permitted the construction of a core collection allowing the selection of a twenty three accessions representative of the Tunisian genetic variability. This core collection expressed 100% of the global diversity for twenty six characters, more than 92% of the global diversity for six quantitative characters and 75% for two characters. Such results demonstrated that our core collection is well representative of the studied germplasm.

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