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To cite this version:

Lamia Krichen, Hedia Bourguiba, Jean Marc Audergon, Neïla Trifi-Farah. Apricot core collection assessment using morphological characterization. 15. International Symposium, Jun 2011, Yerevan, Armenia. hal-02747317

HAL Id: hal-02747317

https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02747317v1

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

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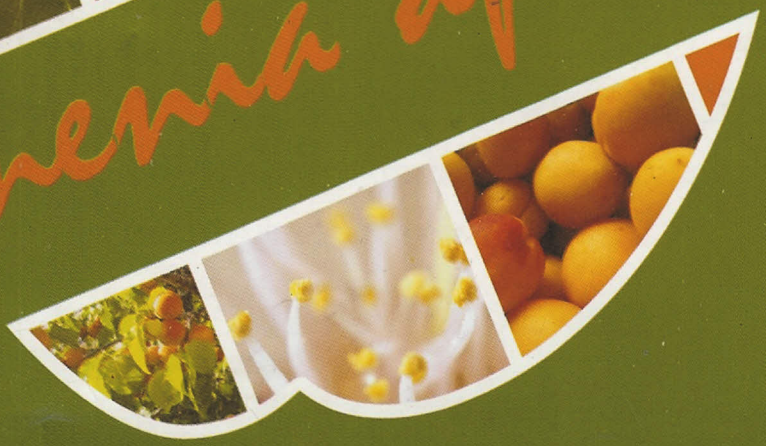
JUNE
20-24

XV International Symposium on Apricot Breeding and Culture

ISHS
International Society for Horticultural Science

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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