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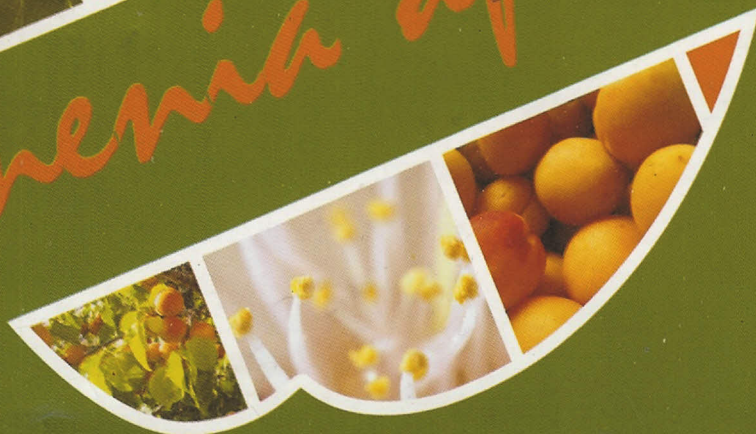
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armenia apricot



APRICOT CORE COLLECTION ASSESSMENT USING MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION

Krichen Lamia¹ Bourguiba Hedia¹, Audergon Jean-Marc², Trifi-Farah Neila¹

¹ Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire, Immunologie et Biotechnologie. Faculté des Sciences de Tunis, Campus Universitaire – Tunis-El Manar, 2092, Tunisie.

² INRA UR1052. Unité de Génétique et Amélioration des Fruits et Légumes, Centre de Recherches d'Avignon - Domaine St Maurice –BP94, 84143 Montfavet Cedex, France.

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.

Corresponding author: Lamia KRICHEN, email: krichlam@planet.tn