



TC/40/7

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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PUBLICATION OF VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The project to consider the publication of variety descriptions (see document TC/38/10, Annex) identifies two main aspects to be developed. Firstly, it establishes the need for a model study to investigate and develop solutions to the technical issues concerning the possible development and publication of variety descriptions, at the international level, in an effective way. Secondly, it notes that there are important legal, administrative and financial issues which would need to be resolved, by the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), before considering the possible introduction of an international system for the publication of variety descriptions. Regarding the model study, the proposal was that the Technical Committee (TC) and its Technical Working Parties (TWPs) should be invited to develop the technical aspects, whilst the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Publication of Variety Descriptions (WG-PVD) was requested to develop a “test publication” of standardized variety descriptions produced in the model study.

2. At its thirty-ninth session held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2003, the TC agreed that the model study should be based on Apple, Barley, Chinese Cabbage, Lettuce, Petunia, Potato and Strawberry. The TC also noted the proposal from the WG-PVD for a study on Rose and agreed that consideration should be given to including only one type of rose in any study and that the matter should be discussed further by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO).

3. As a first step in the model study, the TC agreed that the coordinators, in conjunction with the Office of the Union (the Office), should obtain lists of varieties and identify those

varieties which appeared in the lists of more than one country. The coordinator should then seek descriptions on a manageable number of varieties for comparison. The descriptions should be according to the characteristics in the latest version of the UPOV Test Guidelines and the location at which the descriptions were produced should be clearly identified. It was agreed that the delegate from Denmark, in conjunction with the Office, should develop some initial guidance for the coordinators to help in their planning and conduct of the study.

4. The purpose of this document is to report on progress in the model study and in the consideration of the legal, administrative and financial issues by the CAJ. In addition, it provides details of the forthcoming meeting of the WG-PVD.

Model Study

5. With regard to the possibility of conducting a model study on Rose, the TWO confirmed that there was an insufficient number of countries conducting DUS trials on rose to make this a useful study. Instead, it proposed that a study should be made on *Alstroemeria*, with Mr. Joost Barendrecht (Netherlands) as Coordinator, and the interested countries identified at the meeting as being Canada, Japan and the Netherlands. Other countries would also be invited to participate.

6. The following initial guidance for the Coordinators of the model studies has been developed by the TWC, in conjunction with Mr. Gerhard Deneken (Denmark):

(a) where practically possible, the study should be conducted on all characteristics included in the UPOV Test Guidelines;

(b) contributors of variety descriptions should be requested to provide their “official” descriptions of the varieties concerned, i.e. the description resulting from the DUS examination of the variety. In making this recommendation, it noted that the description may have been re-calibrated in the meantime, but considered that if such changes could not be accommodated in the comparison of variety descriptions the aims of the project could not be met;

(c) in the case of authorities wishing to contribute variety descriptions for which they did not have “official” descriptions, e.g. for varieties which had been acquired for their reference collections, the description to be provided should be that produced at the end of the first complete cycle of testing in which the variety was included;

(d) contributors should be requested to specify the reference of the UPOV Test Guidelines on which the description had been developed; and

(e) contributors should be requested to provide the variety denomination, breeder’s reference, breeder and applicant for each variety to verify, as far as possible, whether varieties were the same or different.

7. The TWC agreed that the Chairman of the TWC should, after consultation with the members of the TWC, develop guidance on how to present the variation in the states of expression between different descriptions of the same variety.

8. The TWA noted the suggestion of the expert from France that the GAÏA software might be a useful tool for comparing descriptions in the study.

9. The following table summarizes the information on lists of varieties available for the studies and indicates the number of varieties on which the model studies will be based. The table indicates that the studies will involve well over 500 varieties and will include the participation of at least 30 members of the Union, the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the International Seed Federation (ISF). Further detailed information concerning the individual model studies follows after the table:

<u>Species / Crop</u>	<u>Proposing TWP / (Coordinator)</u>	<u>Contributors of Variety Lists (Interested Parties which did not provide a list)</u>	<u>Summary of Lists</u>	<u>Summary of varieties on which Model Study will be based</u>
<i>Alstroemeria</i>	TWO (NL)	(CA, JP, NL)	Request for lists sent December 2003	
Apple	TWF (GB)	BE, CA, CZ, DE, GB, HU, LV, NL, NZ, CPVO (AR, FR, ZA)	6 sources: 1 variety 4 sources: 8 varieties 3 sources: 19 varieties 2 sources: 55 varieties	1 variety 6 sources 2 varieties 4 sources 5 varieties 3 sources 2 varieties 2 sources Total: 10 varieties
Barley	TWA (DK)	AR, CA, CL, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, NL, NZ, RO, RU, SE, ZA		Interested parties invited to contribute descriptions for all varieties.
Chinese Cabbage	TWV (JP)	DE, JP, KR, NL, PL (CN, CPVO, ISF)	3 sources: 2 varieties 2 sources: 23 varieties 1 source: 197 varieties	2 varieties 3 sources 23 varieties 2 sources Total: 25 varieties
Lettuce	TWV (NL)	CZ, DE, FR, HU, NL, PL, ES (CPVO, ISF)	6 sources: 1 variety 5 sources: 8 varieties 4 sources: 20 varieties 3 sources: 75 varieties 2 sources: 381 varieties 1 source: 1,362 varieties	1 variety 6 sources 8 varieties 5 sources 20 varieties 4 sources 75 varieties 3 sources 28 varieties 2 sources Total: 132 varieties
Petunia	TWO (DE)	DE, CA, NZ (AU, IL, JP, MX, KR, CPVO)		8 varieties
Potato	TWA (NL/CPVO)	CA, CZ, DE, IL, NL, ZA (AT, CL, EE, GB, NZ, CPVO)	6 sources: 2 varieties 5 sources: 3 varieties 4 sources: 24 varieties 3 sources: 82 varieties 2 sources: 215 varieties	2 varieties 6 sources 3 varieties 5 sources 24 varieties 4 sources 82 varieties 3 sources 215 varieties 2 sources Total: 326 varieties (plus additional varieties later)
Strawberry	TWF (IL)	AR, CA, HU, IL, NZ, CPVO (DE, ES, FR, KE, ZA)	>1 source: 170 varieties	10 varieties

Apple

The TWF agreed with the proposal of the Coordinator, Mrs. Alison Lean (United Kingdom), that this study should proceed with 10 varieties, using all characteristics included in the Test Guidelines for Apple. The varieties chosen were: Caudle; Hidala; Honeycrisp; Jonagored; Lena; Lochbuie Red Braeburn; Pinova; Scigold; Sciros; and Tenroy. The TWF welcomed the choice of varieties, noting that it represented a good split between seedling and mutation varieties. It was observed that the varieties might be known by different names in different countries, and it was agreed that the requests for descriptions should also indicate other names of the variety to ensure that as many descriptions of a variety as possible could be obtained. It was also agreed that all interested parties should be invited to contribute descriptions, including those which had not originally indicated that they had descriptions for the varieties concerned, on the basis that they might know the variety by another name. It was agreed that interested parties should be encouraged to submit descriptions of varieties other than official descriptions and that descriptions developed according to different versions of the Test Guidelines would be welcomed. It was noted that the contributors would have a column in the descriptions to indicate the status of the variety descriptions provided, e.g. whether they were official. The expert from South Africa requested to be added to the list of interested parties.

Barley

The TWA agreed with the proposal of the Coordinator, Mr. Gerhard Deneken (Denmark), that the model study for barley should cover all barley and not just spring barley types. It was agreed that, in order to study variation within and between varieties as far as possible, the Office of the Union would issue a request for descriptions for all varieties for which contributors could make descriptions available. The request would allow countries to indicate where they had already contributed data to the earlier study reported in document TWA/29/19 and where they did not wish to provide further information.

Chinese Cabbage

Mr. Mitsuo Yuasa (Japan), Coordinator for Chinese Cabbage, reported that he had received lists of varieties from Germany (14 varieties), the Netherlands (88), Poland (20) and the Republic of Korea (60). Together with the varieties described in Japan, Mr. Yuasa noted that there were two varieties which appeared in the lists of three countries, 23 varieties which appeared in the lists of two countries and the remaining 197 varieties only appeared in the list of one country. The TWV agreed that the study should proceed on all 25 varieties appearing in the lists of two or more countries. The TWV agreed that the study should be based on all characteristics in the UPOV Test Guidelines.

Lettuce

Mr. Kees van Ettehoven (Netherlands), Coordinator for Lettuce, reported that he had received lists from the Czech Republic (132 varieties), France (437), Germany (132), Hungary (68), the Netherlands (PBR: 350; National List: 1,146), Poland (120) and Spain (93). The TWV agreed that the study should proceed on the basis of all 104 varieties which were included by three or more contributors and that a further 28 varieties be selected from the varieties included in the lists of two contributors to ensure involvement of all contributors. The TWV agreed that the study should be based on all characteristics in the UPOV Test Guidelines.

Petunia

The TWO received an oral report from Ms. Andrea Menne (Germany), Coordinator for Petunia, on the first phase of the project, the results of which are presented as an Annex to this document. It noted that the first phase of the model study had been based on the characteristics included in the Technical Questionnaire of the Test Guidelines for Petunia. Furthermore, it noted that there was a high degree of harmonization in the variety descriptions for the selected characteristics despite the fact that the varieties were described before the Test Guidelines were introduced. With regard to the next phase of the study, the TWO agreed that descriptions should be sought for the same varieties and characteristics, including a request for color photographs, from further countries. The additional countries would include Israel, Japan and Mexico, and an invitation would be made for other countries to contribute. The request for descriptions would also seek information on the growing environment in which the varieties were described. Consideration would be given to the presentation of states of expression of the color characteristics in the form of color groups, in addition to RHS Colour references.

Potato

Lists of varieties were received from: Canada (61 varieties); Czech Republic (179); Germany (190); Israel (22); the Netherlands (298); and South Africa (50). The TWA agreed with the proposal of the Coordinators, Mr. Henk Bonthuis (NL) and Mrs. Anne Weitz (CPVO), that the deadline for other interested parties to submit their lists of varieties should be extended until December 1, 2003. It was noted that the model study would include the 326 varieties mentioned in more than one list of those interested parties already having submitted their lists, plus additional varieties provided by other interested parties before the December 1, 2003, deadline. The TWA heard that the program plan was to approach the interested parties and ask them to provide for each requested variety: variety denomination, breeders reference, full description, Test Guidelines used for the description, year of description, place of description, indication if it concerned an official variety description that had been used as a basis for granting a breeder's right or listing, or if it concerned a description for a variety forming a part of the reference collection.

The study would contain the analysis of the degree of variation (standard deviations) among the variety descriptions, differences among descriptions from similar varieties and among descriptions from different varieties by different grouping criteria. For instance: variation might be described and analyzed according to regional differences, by a group of characteristics or by a group of varieties etc. Varieties and characteristics might also be classified based on the stability of the description. Similarity indices (considering the variation involved) might be developed to describe the morphological distance among varieties for (relevant) characteristics. This study would be done in the first half of 2004.

Strawberry

The TWF agreed that the Coordinator, Mr. Baruch Bar-Tel (Israel), should circulate to the TWF, by the end of October 2003, a list of all varieties occurring on the list of more than one territory, together with his proposal for a shortlist of 10 varieties on which to conduct the study and a request for comments. On the basis of these comments, the list of 10 varieties would be finalized and the Office would issue a request for descriptions to all interested parties. The expert from South Africa requested to be added to the list of interested parties. The expert from France noted that the Coordinator would be able to obtain descriptions of

strawberry varieties, developed by France, from their CD-ROM of vegetable variety descriptions

Administrative, Legal and Financial Considerations

10. At its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva on October 20 and 21, 2003, the CAJ discussed the results of a questionnaire on administrative, legal and financial issues on the basis of document CAJ/47/3. It agreed that the matters specified in paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 of document CAJ/47/3 should be considered by the WG-PVD.

Ad hoc Working Group on the Publication of Variety Descriptions (WG-PVD)

11. A meeting of the WG-PVD has been arranged for March 31, 2004. The items to be discussed at that meeting will be as follows:

- (a) Model study (document TC/40/7 and oral report of TC discussions)
- (b) Administrative, legal and financial considerations (document CAJ/47/3, paragraphs 7, 8 and 11)
- (c) Work plan (document TC/38/10 Annex: Project to consider the publication of variety descriptions).

12. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) *agree to a model study on Alstroemeria;*

(b) *comment on the initial guidance for Coordinators of model studies, as set out in paragraph 6 above;*

(c) *note and comment on the development of the individual model studies, as set out in paragraph 9 above; and*

(d) *note the developments in the CAJ and WG-PVD.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

MODEL STUDY ON PETUNIA: DATA ON VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Number of characteristics according to TG/PETUNI(proj.2)

Variety	Country	Year of testing	Char. 9 Leaf: variegation	Char. 18 Flower: type	Char. 19 Flower: diameter	Char. 22 Corolla lobe: number of colors of upper side	Char. 23 Corolla lobe: main color of upper side	Char. 27 Corolla lobe: conspicuousness of veins on upper side	Char: 30 Corolla tube: main color of inner side
Shihi Brilliant (Revolution Brilliant Pink)	DE	1994	1	1	6	1	RHS 74A (1986)	6	RHS 79C (1986)
	CA	2000	1	1	7	1	RHS 74A-B (1986)	7	RHS 79D (1986)
	NZ	VCK	1	1	7	1	RHS N74A (2001)	6	RHS N186A (2001)
Kesupite (Revolution White; Surfinia White)	DE	1995	1	1	4	1	RHS 155C (1986)	3	RHS 150C (1986)
	CA	2000	1	1	6	1	RHS 155D (1986)	3	RHS 155D (1986)
	NZ	1993/94	1	1	4	1	RHS 155C (1986)	2	RHS 155D (1986)
Sunsolos (Revolution Blue Vein; Surfinia Blue Vein)	DE	1994	1	1	2	1	RHS 69D (1986)	7	RHS 79D (1986)
	CA	2000	1	1	4	1	RHS 84B fading to 69D (1986)	7	RHS 88C-D (1986)
	NZ	1993/94	1	1	3	1	RHS 87D (1986)	7	RHS 83A (1986)

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Variety	Country	Year of testing	Char. 9 Leaf: variegation	Char. 18 Flower: type	Char. 19 Flower: diameter	Char. 22 Corolla lobe: number of colors of upper side	Char. 23 Corolla lobe: main color of upper side	Char. 27 Corolla lobe: conspicuousness of veins on upper side	Char: 30 Corolla tube: main color of inner side
Marrose (Surfinia Hot Pink)	DE	1994	1	1	6	1	RHS 66B (1986)	9	RHS 75A (1986)
	CA	2000	1	1	6	1	RHS 68A (1986)	9	RHS 78 C (1986)
Kerpril (Priscilla)	DE	1998	1	2	5	1	RHS 86A (1995)	8	RHS 87A (1995)
	CA	1999	1	2	5	1	RHS 87A fading to 85A (1986)	7	RHS 86A (1986)
	NZ	1998/99	1	2	5	1	RHS 80A (1995)	7	RHS 79A (1995)
Silk Road	DE	1998	1	2	2	1	RHS 155B (1995)	1	RHS 155A (1995)
	CA	2003							
	NZ	1998/99	1	2	4	1	RHS 155B (1995)	3	RHS 155B (1995)
Limelight	DE	1998	9	1	3	1	RHS 74A (1995)	3	RHS 79A (1995)
	CA	2000	9	1	3	1	RHS 74A (1986)	3	RHS 84A (1986)
Brevt (Evita)	DE	1998	1	1	3	2	RHS 83A (1995)	5	RHS 84A (1995)
	NZ	2000/01	1	1	5	2	RHS 83A (1995)	4	RHS 79A (1995)

MODEL STUDY ON PETUNIA: PHOTOGRAPHS OF VARIETIES



Shihi Brilliant (Revolution Brilliant Pink)



Kesupite (Revolution White)



Sunsolos (Revolution Blue Vein)



Marrose (Surfinia Hot Pink)



Kerpril (Priscilla)



Silk Road



Limelight



Brevt (Evita)