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REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/14:
REVISION OF EXISTING SECTIONS OF DOCUMENT TGP/14

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union
(containing proposals prepared by experts from Germany)*

1. The purpose of this document is a report on developments concerning the items approved by the Technical Committee for consideration in the future revision of document TGP/14/1 (document TGP/14/2) (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the conclusions", paragraphs 81 to 83).
2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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INTRODUCTION

Developing Shape-Related Characteristics

4. The TC at its forty seventh session held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed that the states of expressions for ratios and avoidance of duplication of characteristics should be considered further by the Technical Working Parties (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 81). That matter is considered further in this document in the Section "Developing Shape-Related Characteristics":

Perspective from which to observe plant shapes

5. The TC agreed to recommend that, where appropriate, an explanation for shape characteristics should provide guidance on the perspective from which to observe the shape.

Definition for Botanical Terms

6. With regard to a future revision of TGP/14 "Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents", Section 2: Botanical Terms: Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures: I. Shape: II. Structure: Section 2.4, the TC agreed that additional definitions for botanical terms, such as for peduncle and petiole, should be added to document TGP/14 where the provision of such definitions would help to avoid confusion. However, it confirmed that this should not result in a change to the explanation in document TGP/14/1 that "In general, the meaning of botanical terms which are used in the Test Guidelines to indicate the relevant part of the plant to be examined, but which are not themselves used as states of expression (e.g. bract, petal, berry, etc.), do not require a UPOV specific definition and are not included in this document."

7. The TC agreed the following definition of "spike" for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/14/1: Section 2: Botanical Terms: Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures: III. Definitions for Shape and Structure Terms (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 81 to 83):

Spike	an indeterminate inflorescence with sessile flowers on an unbranched axis.
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DEVELOPING SHAPE-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS

Components of Shape: states of expression for ratios

Proposal

8. Document TGP/14/1 states that:

"1.5 To ensure that the ratio length/width is clearly understood, it is recommended to use meaningful states such as 'very elongated', rather than states such as 'very high'. To avoid confusion concerning the absolute dimensions, it is recommended to avoid the use of terms such as 'narrow' and 'broad' for ratio length/width, particularly where characteristics for the absolute dimensions are also included for the same plant part. The terms associated with certain length/width ratios used in the Chart for Simple Symmetric Plane Shapes are only intended to illustrate the use of ratio length/width. In the Test Guidelines, the use of terms such as '[very/moderately/slightly] elongated' and '[very/moderately/slightly] compressed' will need to be determined according to the range of expression for the characteristic concerned."

9. The Chart for Simple Symmetric Plane Shapes in Section 1.5 indicates that a typical set of states of expression could be as follows:

Characteristic: ratio length/width

<u>State</u>	<u>Note</u>
very compressed	1
moderately to very compressed	2
moderately compressed	3
slightly to moderately compressed	4
medium (slightly compressed to slightly elongated)	5
slightly to moderately elongated	6
moderately elongated	7
moderately to very elongated	8
very elongated	9

10. In the case of characteristics for which there are, for example, 9 states of expression that all correspond to elongated (or compressed), the following options for wording the characteristic might be considered:

(a) Characteristic: ratio length/width

<u>State</u>	<u>Note</u>
very weakly elongated	1
very weakly to weakly elongated	2
weakly elongated	3
weakly to moderately elongated	4
moderately elongated	5
moderately to strongly elongated	6
strongly elongated	7
strongly to very strongly elongated	8
very strongly elongated	9

(b) Characteristic: degree of elongation (or compression)

<u>State</u>	<u>Note</u>
very weak	1
very weak to weak	2
weak	3
weak to moderate	4
moderate	5
moderate to strong	6
strong	7
strong to very strong	8
very strong	9

Comments of the Technical Working Parties in 2010

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

11. The TWO, at its forty-third session, held in Cuernavaca, Morelos State, Mexico, from September 20 to 24, 2010, considered document TWO/43/22. With regard to characteristics for ratio length/width, the TWO confirmed its support for the use of meaningful states, such as compressed and elongated, but agreed that such characteristics should be reworded to correspond to those states (see document TWO/43/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 50 and 52).

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

12. The TWF, at its forty-first session, held in Cuernavaca, Morelos State, Mexico, from September 27 to October 1, 2010, considered document TWF/41/22. With regard to characteristics for ratio length/width, the TWF agreed that TGP/14 should be amended to indicate that the order of states of expression for ratio length/width should be from very compressed (low ratio) (e.g. note 1) to very elongated (high ratio) (e.g. note 9) (see document TWF/41/30 "Report", paragraphs 54 and 56).

Conclusions of the Technical Committee in 2011

13. With regard to a future revision of TGP/14 "Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents", Section 2: Botanical Terms: Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures: I. Shape: *Components of Shape: states of expression for ratios*, the TC, at its forty seventh session held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed to invite the TWPs to review the approach for describing ratios (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 81).

Comments of the Technical Working Parties in 2011

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

14. With regard to the use of characteristics for ratios, the TWV confirmed that it should be possible to use states such as "high" or "low", provided that explanations and illustrations were provided to avoid any risk of confusion. It also agreed that it should be possible to use states such as "elongated" and "compressed" for characteristics that were worded as shapes, rather than ratios (see document TWV/45/26 "Report", paragraphs 60 and 61).

Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

15. The Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) at its twenty-ninth session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 7 to June 10, 2011, took note of the comments the TWPs in 2010, presented in paragraphs 2.10 to 2.17 of Annex I of document TWC/29/3 (see document TWC/29/31 "Report", paragraph 41).

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

16. With regard to the use of characteristics for ratios, it confirmed that it should be possible to use states such as "high" or "low", provided that explanations and illustrations were provided to avoid any risk of confusion. In that regard, it considered that it would also be important for those explanations be included in the Technical Questionnaire. It agreed that it should be possible to use states such as "elongated" and "compressed" for characteristics that were worded as shapes, rather than ratios (see document TWO/29/31 "Report", paragraphs 39 and 40).

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

17. The TWF considered documents TWF/42/3, Annexes I and II and it noted that the Table 1.2 (Characteristic: ratio length/width) contained in Annex I to document TWF/42/3, a copy of which is reproduced in paragraph 8 of this document should be updated to reflect the order of states as indicated in TGP/14 (see document TWF/42/26 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 46 and 47).

18. With regard to the use of characteristics for ratios, the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF) at its forty-second session, held in Hiroshima, Japan from November 14 to 18, 2011, shared the views of the TWO that it should be possible to use states such as "high" or "low", provided that explanations and illustrations were provided to avoid any risk of confusion. In that regard, it considered that it would also be important for those explanations be included in the Technical Questionnaire. It agreed that it should be possible to use states such as "elongated" and "compressed" for characteristics that were worded as shapes, rather than ratios. Therefore, the TWF emphasized that the use of these terms should only be used on a case-by-case basis. The TWF confirmed their decision in 2010 that they preferred to have states from compressed to elongated (see document TWF/42/26 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 48).

Comments of the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) in 2012

19. With regard to the use of characteristics for ratios, the TC-EDC at its session held in Geneva, on January 11 and 12, 2012, agreed with the comments of the TWV that it should be possible to use states such as “high” or “low”, provided that explanations and illustrations were provided to avoid any risk of confusion. It also agreed that it should be possible to use states such as “elongated” and “compressed” for characteristics that were worded as shapes, rather than ratios.

20. With regard to the order of states for characteristic: ratio length/width presented in the Table in paragraph 10 (a) of this document, the TC-EDC agreed with the comment of the TWF and proposed that the consistency with TGP/14 should be checked for this approach.

Avoidance of duplication of characteristics

Proposal by an expert from Germany presented to the Technical Working Parties in 2010 and the Technical Committee in 2011

21. Document TGP/14/1, Section 2: Botanical Terms: Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures: I. SHAPE: 2. “Developing Shape-Related Characteristics”, paragraph 2.1.1, states that:

“Duplication of the same difference in two separate characteristics should be avoided: for example, the use of characteristics for both ratio length/width and for shape should be avoided where states of expression of the characteristic for shape relate to different length/width ratios.”

22. A further example of a duplication is when separate characteristics are included for ratio length/width, length and width, because two of those characteristics would determine the third.

23. The ratio length/width (width/length) is a tool to describe the shape. The absolute measures are indications for the size. It is necessary to decide which are the most appropriate characteristics to describe those two sources of variation (shape and size), i.e. best discrimination between varieties and greatest environmental stability. The aim is to distinguish varieties with the same shape by size and with the same size by shape.

24. Experience has often shown that “width in relation to length” or “length in relation to width” is more stable than the absolute measurements of width and length, because the absolute measures are more influenced by the environment. In such cases, the ratio is better for the description of the shape.

25. If all varieties have the same shape, only one characteristic is necessary to observe the size. In such cases, consideration needs to be given to whether the length or width would be more reliable.

26. If varieties have different shapes and different sizes within the same shape, one absolute dimension (length or width) and the ratio should be used for DUS. Thus, two characteristics should be included in the Test Guidelines:

“length” and “ratio width/length” (or “width in relation to length”)

or

“width” and “ratio length/width (or “length in relation to width”).

27. The inclusion of a third characteristic that is fully determined by the two other characteristics would not provide any additional information for the assessment of DUS and should be avoided.

28. If the duplication of characteristics is avoided, width in relation to length can be described with the states “narrow” to “broad” and length in relation to width with the states “short” to “long”.

29. Document TGP/8/1 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability”, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology, states the following with regard to correlation between characteristics:

“1.3.1 Weighting of characteristics

“1.3.1.1 It is important to take account of the correlation between characteristics when weighting. If two characteristics are linked (e.g. plant height including panicle; plant height excluding panicle), it is advisable to use only one of them in GAIA, to avoid double weight.”

Comments of the Technical Working Parties in 2010

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

30. At its thirty-ninth session, held in Osijek, Croatia, from May 24 to 28, 2010, the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) considered document TWA/39/22 (paragraphs 7 to 15 of document TWA/39/22) (see document TWA/39/27 “Report”, paragraphs 68 to 70).

31. The TWA agreed that experts from Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom should send data on characteristics for length, width and length/width ratio to Mr. Trevor Gilliland for collation. The TWA, at its fortieth session, would consider that data with a view to forming conclusions on any benefits in using all three characteristics in Test Guidelines.

32. The TWA noted that the text of TGP/8/1 Draft 15 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability”, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology, Section 1.3.1.1, should be amended to clarify that there is an assumption that the length of panicle is used as a characteristic.

Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

33. The Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), at its twenty-eighth session, held in Angers, France, from June 29 to July 2, 2010, considered document TWC/28/22 (paragraphs 7 to 15 of document TWC/28/22) (see document TWC/28/36 “Report”, paragraphs 46 and 47).

34. The TWC agreed that the first sentence of paragraph 8 should read “The ratio length/width (width/length) is a tool to describe a component of shape”. It also noted that any characteristics that were considered for distinctness would also need to be examined for uniformity. The TWC agreed that it should consider the results of the analysis of the data on characteristics for length, width and length/width ratio to be considered by the TWA (see paragraph 16, above), at its twenty- ninth session.

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

35. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), at its forty-fourth session, held in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, from July 5 to 9, 2010, expressed concerns with regard to the proposal in document TWV/44/22 (paragraphs 7 to 15 of document TWV/44/22) that, if varieties have different shapes and different sizes within the same shape, only one absolute dimension (length or width) and the ratio should be used for DUS. In the first instance, it was noted that both length and width would need to be recorded in order to derive the ratio length/width. It also considered that it was often useful to have a separate description for length, width and ratio length/width. With regard to concerns about duplication of characteristics, it was noted that there was a suitable warning in relation to GAIA in document TGP/8/1 Draft 15, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology, Section 1.3.1 Weighting of characteristics. It did not anticipate problems for DUS examiners making decisions on DUS where the characteristics length, width and ratio length/width were considered separately and noted that there were correlations between other types of characteristics (see document TWV/44/34 “Report”, paragraphs 59 and 60).

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

36. The TWO, at its forty-third session, held in Cuernavaca, Morelos State, Mexico, from September 20 to 24, 2010, considered document TWO/43/22. With regard to the proposal in document TWO/43/22 that, if varieties have different shapes and different sizes within the same shape, only one absolute dimension (length or width) and the ratio should be used for DUS, the TWO shared the concerns of the TWV. In the first instance, it was noted that both length and width would need to be recorded in order to derive the ratio length/width. It also considered that it was often useful to have a separate description for length, width and ratio length/width. With regard to concerns about duplication of characteristics, it was noted that there was a suitable warning in relation to GAIA in document TGP/8/1 Draft 15, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology,

Section 1.3.1 Weighting of characteristics. It did not anticipate problems for DUS examiners making decisions on DUS where the characteristics length, width and ratio length/width were considered separately and noted that there were correlations between other types of characteristics (see document TWO/43/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 50 and 51).

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

37. The TWF, at its forty-first session, held in Cuernavaca, Morelos State, Mexico, from September 27 to October 1, 2010, considered document TWF/41/22. With regard to the proposal in document TWF/41/22 that, if varieties have different shapes and different sizes within the same shape, only one absolute dimension (length or width) and the ratio should be used for DUS, the TWF shared the concerns of the TWV. In the first instance, it was noted that both length and width would need to be recorded in order to derive the ratio length/width. It also considered that it was often useful to have a separate description for length, width and ratio length/width. With regard to concerns about duplication of characteristics, it was noted that there was a suitable warning in relation to GAIA in document TGP/8/1 Draft 15, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology, Section 1.3.1 Weighting of characteristics. It did not anticipate problems for DUS examiners making decisions on DUS where the characteristics length, width and ratio length/width were considered separately and noted that there were correlations between other types of characteristics (see document TWF/41/30 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 54 and 55).

Conclusions of the Technical Committee in 2011

38. The TC, at its forty-seventh session held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed that with regard to a future revision of TGP/14 "Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents", Section 2: Botanical Terms: Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures: I. Shape: *Developing Shape-Related Characteristics*, that the avoidance of duplication of characteristics should be considered further by the TWPs (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 81).

Study presented to the TWPs in 2011

39. At their sessions in 2011, the Technical Working Parties received information on a study concerning "Examination of the use component and composite characters for determining distinctness", prepared by experts from Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom as presented in the Annex to this document.

40. The following bullet points summarize the overall observations and related considerations.

- In direct compliance with the current TGP/14 guidelines, duplication of the same difference in two separate characteristics should be avoided.
- Only ratios describing biologically meaningful plant characteristics should be calculated.
- As composite characteristics are calculated from components that are routinely assessed in trials, workloads and costs are unlikely to be a significant consideration in determining their practical value.
- There were large differences between the species in the discriminating power of the composite character relative to its component characters. In some cases, the composite character was much less discriminating than its individually examined components, in others it was intermediary and in others it was the most discriminating character of all.
- The composite character provided some level of unique variety-pair distinctions in all species, though in some cases this was at a very low frequency.
- Where one of the component characters was only weakly discriminating, the composite character was usually highly correlated to the other component character and had a lower discriminating power.
- The individual component characters were in the majority of cases independent of each other. The exceptions being the cotyledon characteristics in WOSR [Winter Oilseed Rape] and to a lesser degree the fruit characteristics in Apple.
- Composite characters were often very highly correlated with their component characters and in most cases with a significantly higher similarity than that existing between the two component characters.
- The degree of correlation between a component character and its composite character was not a good predictor of their independent discriminating potential. This was also the case between component characters where the level of similarity did not accurately indicate their relative discriminating power.

Comments of the Technical Working Parties in 2011

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

41. The Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) at its fortieth session held in Brasília, Brazil, from May 16 to 20, 2011, received a presentation on a study concerning the “Examination of the use component and composite characters for determining distinctness”, prepared by experts from Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom and contained in Annex II to document TWA/40/3, a copy of which is reproduced in the Annex to this document. The TWA stressed the importance of the results of the study. It illustrated the importance to get knowledge on the relationship between composite characteristics and their components in order to be able to decide which characteristics should be included in the Test Guidelines. The TWA proposed to prepare, for the forty-first session of the TWA, specific guidance in that respect, based on the presented study. Furthermore, the TWA invited the other TWPs to consider the results of the aforementioned study at their sessions in 2011 (see document TWA/40/23 “Report, paragraph 39).

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

42. At its forty-seventh session, held in Monterey, United States of America, from July 25 to 29, 2011, the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), endorsed the overall observations and related considerations as set out in document TWV/45/3, Annex II, a copy of which is reproduced in the Annex to this document. In particular, it noted that each case would need to be considered on its merits (see document TWV/45/26 “Report”, paragraph 60).

Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

43. The Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) at its twenty-ninth session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 7 to June 10, 2011, took note of the comments presented in paragraphs 2.10 to 2.17 of Annex I of document TWC/29/3, a copy of which is reproduced in the Annex to this document (see: document TWC/29/31 “Report, paragraph 41).

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

44. Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), at its forty-fourth session, held in Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan, from November 7 to 11, 2011 The TWO endorsed the overall observations and related considerations as set out in document TWO/44/3, Annex II, a copy of which is reproduced in the Annex to this document. In particular, it noted that each case would need to be considered on its merits (see document TWO/ 44/25 “Report”, paragraph 39).

Comments of the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) in 2012

45. The TC-EDC noted the comments of the TWA and proposed that guidance based on the presented study on “Examination of the use component and composite characters for determining distinctness” should be prepared for the TWPs sessions in 2012 by the experts from Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

46. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) *note the items that have been agreed to be included in a future revision of document TGP/4, as set out in paragraphs 4 to 7 of this document;*

(b) *consider the proposal concerning states of expressions for ratios, on the basis of paragraphs 8 to 10 of this document in conjunction with the comments of the TWPs and TC-EDC, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 20;*

(c) *consider the proposal concerning the avoidance of duplication of characteristics, on the basis of paragraphs 21 to 29 of this document, in conjunction with the comments of the TWPs as set out in paragraphs 30 to 37;*

(d) *to approve the development of guidance on the relationship between composite characteristics and their components in order to be able to decide which characteristics should be included in the Test Guidelines, on the basis of the presented study on “Examination of the use component and composite characters for determining distinctness”, and to request experts from Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom to prepare such guidance for consideration by the TWPs in 2012.*

[Annex follows]

Examination of the use component and composite characters for determining distinctness

Information prepared by Experts from Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom

Background

The key issue in this consideration is defined by document TGP/14/1 draft 11 (see footnote for full reference*). It states that:

“Duplication of the same difference in two separate characteristics should be avoided.”

It further specifically states that:

“...for example, the use of characteristics for both ratio length/width and for shape should be avoided where states of expression of the characteristic for shape relate to different length/width ratios.”

While the latter statement relates specifically to the duplicate assessment of one characteristic by two separate methods (as a shape assessment and as a ratio calculation), the principle of avoiding duplication of the same difference is clearly established in the former statement.

This issue has also been considered in the Technical Committee paper TC-EDC/Jan11/13. Based on the above principles it was questioned whether it was appropriate, for example, to include a length, a width and their ratio in a Test Guideline. The concern was that since the ratio was comprised entirely by the length and width assessments, using all three parameters could be introducing a duplication of the same difference. If so, then in a Test Guideline that included the ratio, only one of the two primary assessments (length or width) should also be included (i.e. ratio + length or ratio + width).

From the above synopsis it is clear that the key issue is to understand the relationship between a composite characteristic and its component characteristics. In practice, it needs to be ascertained whether the same difference is being duplicated. Evidence for this would include how each component distinguishes between large numbers of variety-pairs and specifically whether a high similarity existed in the differences recorded by a composite character and its components. The following report presents evidence and observations on the implications of using individually assessed characters and their calculated composite, for determining distinctness in several agricultural species.

* Section 2 (Botanical Terms), Subsection 2 (Shapes and structures: I), Shape: 2. “Developing Shape-related Characteristics”, para 2.1.1

Possible character combinations

There are several types of character-combinations that can be envisaged. A possible categorization could be as follows:

1. Random character combinations
It is possible to calculate a mathematical value for any combination of two characters, for example flowering date divided by leaf length. The issue in this case is not whether the same difference is being duplicated, but that the composite does not describe any biologically occurring or meaningful plant characteristic. It is suggested that it is important to declare in any guideline, that only those calculations that described an actual biological characteristic should be considered for approval as a new distinctness character.
2. Relationship characteristics
These calculated characters describe a biologically meaningful relationship between two different plant characteristics. An example would be the ratio between ear length and awn length, whereby candidates are assessed for distinctness on whether the length of awn was significantly longer or shorter for the length of ear to which it was attached (or visa-versa). In theory, this category could also involve non-morphological characteristics such as those based on time or color. A possible example could be a difference in the length of time between flower bud emergence and anthesis, derived by subtracting one date/time from the other. Similarly, a color ratio between two plant parts may differ between varieties and could be assessed.
3. Multidimensional characteristics
These calculated characters describe a nonlinear plant feature based on two linear component characters. These could include two-dimensional shape or area characteristics derived from the length and width parameters of leaves, cotyledons, petioles etc. These could also include multidimensional characteristics such as volume, described by the linear characters of height and width, most usefully where the structure is not a perfect sphere.

The demarcation between categories 2 and 3 is to some extent academic, though category 2 includes characteristics that are difficult or impossible to assess without examining the component parts, while category 3 characters are definable structures that could be directly assessed independently of its component parts. In practice, however, the relationships between assessed component and calculated composite characters would not be expected to fundamentally differ and the same question arise regarding inclusion of composite and component characters in the same guideline. The examples provided in this report, therefore, have applicability across both categories.

Dynamics of composite and component characters in example species

Several examples of the discrimination power and relationships between composite characters and their component characters are provided in the Appendix to Annex II. These were produced from DUS trials in Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

In each case the tables examine the capacity of the composite character to distinguish between current varieties by providing a measure of overall discriminating power and the frequency of unique variety-pair separations. The equivalent data for the component characters is also provided, plus the relationship between composite and components measured as correlation/regression analyses. As far as practical the data have been standardized to facilitate across species comparisons.

For overall consideration

There was considerable similarity in the underlying implications of combining individual characters into composites based on the relative discriminating power of each component, and to a lesser degree on the level of similarity and independence between them. There was not, however, sufficiently consistent relationships between composite and component characters in the different species to identify a simple unifying guideline. In some cases the inclusion of composite characters could provide useful additional information, in other cases they appeared to be largely repeating the information available in one or both of their components. Nonetheless, in all species, the composite character did achieve some level of unique variety-pair distinctions.

Determining the appropriate guidance for the future will largely depend on the TWA proposing an expert interpretation of the above observations but it also appears necessary to have specific knowledge of the component/composite dynamics in each species under consideration.

[Appendix follows]

APPENDIX

Relationships between component and composite characteristics in example species

The experts provided several distinctness data sets for crop species examined at their research facilities, as follows:

1) Awn/Ear Length Ratio in Barley

Component Characters: Ear Length and Awn Length
Composite Character: Awn/Ear Length Ratio

Example A: Discrimination capacity of characteristics for test years 2008 & 2009

UPOV no.	Characteristic	Max.	Min.	LSD	Sig-Each	Sig-Next	Sig-Only
Winter Barley		15576 comparisons					
	Awn: length	143.97	87.47	12.00	48.0%	48.0%	18.4%
16	Ear: length	118.80	65.65	11.80	37.0%	18.8%	10.3%
17	Ratio	2.15	0.81	0.30	33.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Spring Barley		46360 comparisons					
	Awn length	146.27	76.92	11.47	42.7%	42.7%	14.1%
16	Ear length	97.32	61.95	8.70	29.2%	16.8%	7.5%
17	Ratio	2.14	1.05	0.24	34.7%	2.0%	2.0%

Key: Sig-Each = frequency of variety pairs separated by EACH character independently

Sig-Next = frequency of variety pairs separated by NEXT character when not separated by previous characters

Sig-Only = frequency of variety pairs separated ONLY by that character

Correlations between characters

Winter Barley	212 varieties in 2008		213 varieties in 2009	
	Ear Length	Ratio	Ear Length	Ratio
Ratio	-0.76		-0.83	
Awn Length	-0.24	0.80	-0.28	0.75
Spring Barley	329 varieties in 2008		342 varieties in 2009	
	Ear Length	Ratio	Ear Length	Ratio
Ratio	-0.68		-0.70	
Awn Length	-0.04	0.80	-0.07	0.80

Summary: The composite Ratio had similar discriminating power to Ear Length in Winter Barley and both characters were less powerful than Awn Length (Sig-Each). In Spring Barley the Ratio was more discriminating than Ear Length but again less discriminating than Awn Length. In both species the Ratio separated variety-pairs that were indistinguishable by either component characteristic (Sig-Only). In all data sets, the Ratio was highly positively correlated with Awn Length and highly negatively correlated with Ear Length, while the two component characters were only weakly related.

Example B: Discrimination capacity of characteristics for test years 2006/08, 07/09, 08/10 at two locations each with three growing cycles.

UPOV no.	Characteristic	Sig-Each	Sig-Only	Sig-Multi
Winter Barley		32,678 comparisons		
	Awn: length	54.3%	8.9%	45.4%
16	Ear: length	65.0%	10.3%	54.7%
17	Ratio	51.6%	0.6%	51.1%

Key: as for Example A, plus Sig-Multi = frequency of variety pairs separated by two or all three characters

Correlations between characters (regression coefficient R²)

Winter Barley		
	Ear: length	Ratio
Ratio	0.59	
Awn: length	0.02	0.43

Summary: In agreement with Example A, the calculated Ratio had similar powers of discrimination to one of the component characters, but was weaker than the other (Sig-Each). There were again variety-pairs that were only separated by the Ratio, although in this data set it was in a very small proportion of the comparisons (Sig-Only). The Ratio, therefore, provided little additional discriminating power over its two components. The Ratio was again highly correlated with the component characters which were mutually independent.

- 2) Length/Width Ratios of leaf and fruit in Apple
- Component Characters: Leaf Length and Leaf Width;
Fruit Height and Fruit Diameter
- Composite Character: Length/Width Ratio
Height/Diameter Ratio

Discrimination capacity of characteristics for test years 2006/07, 07/08, 08/09, 09/10 each with two growing cycles

UPOV no.	Characteristic	Sig-Each	Sig-Only	Sig-Multi
Apple (Leaf Characters)		13,644 comparisons		
14	Leaf length	52.8%	9.5%	43.4%
15	Leaf Width	43.9%	3.6%	40.2%
16	Ratio	47.1%	6.9%	40.2%
Apple (Fruit Characters)		13,644 comparisons		
14	Height	52.1%	4.5%	47.6%
15	Diameter	45.5%	6.9%	38.6%
16	Ratio	46.1%	7.5%	38.6%

Key: Sig-Each = frequency of variety pairs separated by EACH character independently
Sig-Only = frequency of variety pairs separated ONLY by that character
Sig-Multi = frequency of variety pairs separated by two or all three characters

Correlations between characters (regression coefficient R²)

Apple (Leaf Characters)		
	Length	Ratio
Ratio	0.19	
Width	0.30	0.26
Apple (Fruit Characters)		
	Height	Ratio
Ratio	0.25	
Diameter	0.52	0.06

Summary: For leaf characters, the Ratio was slightly more discriminating than Width and slightly less than Length (Sig-Each). Similarly, for fruit characters Diameter and Ratio were similarly discriminating and marginally weaker than Height. In both leaf and fruit examinations the Ratio provided a comparable proportion of unique variety-pair separations to either of its component characters, with the Ratio highest in fruit and second highest in leaf comparisons (Sig-Only). This was probably a consequence of the observed relationships between the characters. In both the leaf and fruit characteristics, the component characters were more closely correlated to each other than to the Ratio, particularly in the fruit.

3) Length/Width Ratios of Petals and Cotyledons in Winter Oilseed Rape (WOSR)

Component Characters: Petal Length and Width
Cotyledon Length and Width

Composite Characters: Petal Length/Width Ratio
Cotyledon Length/Width Ratio

WOSR Petal Characteristics						WOSR Cotyledon Characteristics					
Lines 2009			Hybrids 2009			Lines 2009			Hybrids 2009		
UPOV No.	Sig-Each	Sig-Next	UPOV No.	Sig-Each	Sig-Next	UPOV No.	Sig-Each	Sig-Next	UPOV No.	Sig-Each	Sig-Next
Length 11	27.4%	68.24%	Ratio 54	23.7%	63.01%	Ratio 13	21.4%	60.30%	74	19.4%	51.15%
Ratio 54	24.2%	19.88%	Length 11	21.2%	20.90%	72	17.5%	20.47%	Width 3	16.2%	23.07%
16	19.2%	5.93%	16	18.9%	7.96%	70	13.3%	8.42%	75	17.7%	11.29%
18	15.8%	2.71%	21	16.1%	3.62%	73	13.1%	4.32%	Ratio 13	18.9%	5.91%
21	13.2%	1.33%	18	15.3%	1.73%	Width 3	10.6%	3.23%	70	7.6%	2.86%
15	13.3%	0.81%	15	16.4%	1.16%	75	17.6%	1.02%	78	11.6%	1.47%
17	11.2%	0.40%	8	9.6%	0.56%	74	19.2%	0.69%	73	10.8%	1.42%
4	4.0%	0.23%	4	6.0%	0.27%	78	12.0%	0.43%	72	10.8%	0.88%
19	10.9%	0.17%	91	16.5%	0.25%	76	14.6%	0.31%	Length 2	13.6%	0.65%
8	4.3%	0.10%	19	7.5%	0.14%	Length 2	9.8%	0.27%	71	17.6%	0.47%
7	1.9%	0.07%	Width 12	22.8%	0.12%	71	18.8%	0.25%	76	10.3%	0.30%
Width 12	26.2%	0.06%	7	2.3%	0.10%	67	11.5%	0.14%	67	14.8%	0.26%
91	18.6%	0.03%	17	10.5%	0.10%	77	2.7%	0.10%	66	14.6%	0.12%
9	3.3%	0.03%	14	9.6%	0.07%	66	8.3%	0.03%	69	13.6%	0.07%
14	6.6%	0.01%	9	3.5%	0.02%	68	9.5%	0.02%	77	2.4%	0.05%
Totals	220286	99499		28887	10886	69	8.7%	0.01%	68	13.0%	0.02%
						Totals	254906	90437		24715	9368

Key: Sig-Each = frequency of variety pairs separated by EACH character independently as above plus
Sig-Next = frequency of variety pairs separated by NEXT character when not separated by previous characters

Correlations between characters

WOSR	Lines 2009		Hybrids 2009	
	Length	Ratio	Length	Ratio
<u>Petal Characteristics</u>				
<u>Ratio</u>	0.52		-0.80	
<u>Width</u>	-0.20	0.74	-0.08	0.53
<u>Cotyledon Characteristics</u>				
Ratio	-0.38		-0.32	
Width	0.72	0.37	0.82	0.30

Summary: For both variety types the Length, Width and Ratio petal characters were the three most discriminating of all the characters examined (Sig-Each). The Ratio was the most discriminating character for hybrids and the third most discriminating character for the conventional lines. For cotyledon characters Length, Width and Ratio were not the three most discriminating characters, though Ratio was the most discriminating for conventional lines, and more discriminating than either of its components for both variety types. Overall, therefore, Ratio separated variety-pairs that were not distinct by either of its component characters. Similar to other species, however, Ratio was strongly correlated with both of its components (in one case negatively), while the Length and Width characters were highly independent of each other. In an overall analysis of results from 2010 there was almost perfect correlation between all three characters (data not shown), yet the discriminating power of these three characters was still similar to the 2009 data. This indicated that discrimination power can differ between characters even when they are highly correlated.

- 4) Length/Width Ratios of Flag Leaves in perennial ryegrass
 Component Characters: Flag Leaf Length and Flag Leaf Width

 Composite Characters: Flag Leaf Length/Width Ratio

Example A: Discrimination capacity of characteristics for test years 2003/05, 05/07, 08/10 each with three growing cycles.

UPOV no.	Characteristic	Sig-Each	Sig-Only	Sig-Multi
Ryegrass (fodder diploid)		10,598 comparisons		
14	Leaf length	26.2%	8.6%	17.6%
15	Leaf Width	4.7%	1.5%	3.2%
16	Ratio	18.6%	2.0%	16.7%
Ryegrass (fodder tetraploid)		8,107 comparisons		
14	Leaf length	15.1%	5.7%	9.4%
15	Leaf Width	10.5%	4.8%	5.7%
16	Ratio	11.1%	1.5%	9.6%
Ryegrass (turf)		10,291 comparisons		
14	Leaf length	23.1%	13.9%	9.3%
15	Leaf Width	10.1%	4.2%	5.9%
16	Ratio	13.6%	4.9%	8.7%

Key: Sig-Each = frequency of variety pairs separated by EACH character independently
 Sig-Only = frequency of variety pairs separated ONLY by that character
 Sig-Multi = frequency of variety pairs separated by two or all three characters

Correlations between characters (regression coefficient R²)

Ryegrass (fodder diploid)		
	Length	Ratio
Ratio	0.50	
Width	0.01	0.23
Ryegrass (fodder tetraploid)		
	Length	Ratio
Ratio	0.35	
Width	0.16	0.24
Ryegrass (turf)		
	Length	Ratio
Ratio	0.26	
Width	0.08	0.61

Summary: Across all three variety types (ploidy and usage) the Ratio was intermediate in overall discriminating power between its component characters (Sig-Each), with Length greatest and Width least powerful. Length uniquely separated the highest proportion of variety-pairs (Sig-Only) with Ratio uniquely separating a similar or lower proportion to Width. Ratio only made a substantial contribution (~5%) of the unique separations in the turf group, which was similar to that achieved by Width. The highest correlation across the fodder diploids was between the Ratio and Length characters. This was most probably due to the low level of variation in Width and this also gave a low correlation between Ratio and Width. In contrast, the closest relationship in the turf types was between Ratio and Width. Overall, however, Length and Width were still highly independent in all three variety types, with the closest relationships involving the Ratio character.

Example B: Final reports on perennial ryegrass candidates 2010

Late Forage Tetraploids - data from 4 years 2006-2010

Candidate: Sures (AFP 13/2185)
Similar Control: Ventoux (AFP 13/1050)

T Values positive if Sures values Larger than Ventoux

Character	Stringency	MJAR Analysis			F3	
		T	Probability	Significance		
14 Length	0.86	-2.81	0.536	**	1.5	NS
15 Width	0.84	-1.44	15.105	NS	0.5	NS
16 Ratio	0.84	-2.18	3.065	NS (5%)	1.34	NS

Late forage diploids - data from 4 years 2006-2010

Candidate: Romark (AFP 13/1480)
Similar Control: Kabota (AFP 13/1398)

If T Values positive Romark values Larger than Kabota

Character	Stringency	MJAR Analysis			F3	
		T	Probability	Significance		
14 Length	0.95	1.61	10.809	NS	3.2	*
15 Width	0.89	2.62	0.947	**	0.8	NS
16 Ratio	0.95	2.34	2.019	NS (5%)	2.1	NS

Intermediate forage diploids - data from 4 years 2006-2010

Candidate: Perceval (AFP 13/1837)
Similar Control: Merganda (AFP 13/882)

T Values positive if Perceval values Larger than Merganda

Character	Stringency	MJAR Analysis			F3
		T	Probability		
14 Length	0.82	2.50	1.282	NS (5%)	1.3 NS
15 Width	0.86	2.57	1.073	NS (5%)	0.5 NS
16 Ratio	0.83	2.67	0.812	**	1.1 NS

Summary: *Example B* was constructed from a different data set and a different location to *Example A*. Despite this the dynamics between the characters was broadly similar, except the overall discriminating power of *Width* was higher in *Example B* (data not shown) The three variety distinctness reports provide examples of positive distinctness decisions in 2010 that depended on either Flag Leaf Length, Width or Shape (Ratio). Candidate Sures was passed on a clear difference in Length and as Width had a low non-significant discrimination probability, the calculated difference in Ratio was only at the 5% level. An equivalent result was recorded for Romark, except in this case Width was the essential discriminating character. The third candidate, Percival, was indistinct from Merganda in both component characters (probability levels of only 5%), but their combination in the composite Ratio provided the essential 1% discrimination.

Information provided by the following experts

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[End of Appendix and of document]